Name _____ Date _____

Hyperbole and Understatement in Dialogue

Directions: Each question gives you its own line or short conversation, written like a script. Read it closely, then answer.

1. Read this exchange.

Maya: Can you help me carry my backpack to the car?
Leo: Sure. What's in it?
Maya: Six textbooks and my lunch. It weighs more than the car does.

Which line uses hyperbole?

A. "Can you help me carry my backpack to the car?"

B. "Sure. What's in it?"

C. "Six textbooks and my lunch."

D. "It weighs more than the car does."

2. Maya tells her friend that her backpack "weighs more than the car does." What does she mean?

A. The backpack is very heavy.

B. She does not want her friend to help her.

C. The backpack really weighs thousands of pounds.

D. The car is small and needs repairs.

3. During a storm, a tree falls and crushes the roof of the family's car. Dad looks out the window.

Dad: Well, that's a little inconvenient.

What kind of figurative language does Dad use?

A. Understatement B. Hyperbole C. Personification D. Simile

4. When a falling tree crushes the family car, Dad says, "Well, that's a little inconvenient." Why might Dad say it this way?

A. He is exaggerating how bad the damage is.

B. He doesn't think the car is damaged at all.

C. He is making light of a big problem, maybe to stay calm.

D. He is glad that the tree fell.

5. Which two lines are examples of hyperbole? Select two.

☐ A. The movie was a little longer than I expected.

☐ B. My brother's room is so messy that scientists could discover new animals in there.

☐ C. Our bus was ten minutes late this morning.

☐ D. I'm so hungry I could eat every pizza in this restaurant.

☐ E. The soup is hot, so let it cool first.

6. Jordan scored 31 points and made the winning shot. Afterward, a reporter for the school paper asks how he played.

Jordan: I did all right, I guess.

What does Jordan's understatement suggest?

A. He is being modest about an outstanding game.
B. He is bragging about the winning shot.
C. He scored only a few points.
D. He did not hear the reporter's question.

7. Grandpa: When I was your age, I walked four hours to school every morning, through snow taller than a house.

What does Grandpa's hyperbole show?

A. He really walked four hours a day through very deep snow.
B. His town did not have any schools.
C. He is upset that his grandchild takes the bus.
D. He is playfully exaggerating how hard his childhood was.

8. Which of these lines contains understatement?

A. Waiting in a long line, Sam groans: We've been standing here for a hundred years.
B. At the beach, Ana dips a toe in and says: The water is cold today.
C. After a big win, Jo cheers: That was a great game!
D. After a hurricane floods the first floor of their house, Aunt Lisa says: Looks like we got a little rain.

9. Match each line to the kind of language it uses.

Write the letter of the matching answer on each line.

1. _____ I'm so tired I could sleep until next summer.
2. _____ Theo, gritting his teeth an hour after breaking his arm in two places: My arm's a little sore.
3. _____ His sneeze sounded like a goose honking.
4. _____ The library closes at six tonight.

A. Hyperbole
B. Simile
C. Literal statement
D. Understatement

10. Read this conversation.

Mia: How was the camping trip?
Omar: The tent collapsed, raccoons ate our dinner, and it rained all night.
Mia: Oh no.
Omar: Yeah. It wasn't my favorite weekend.

How does Omar's last line fit the conversation?

A. It shows that Omar forgot about the rain.
B. It exaggerates how bad the trip was.
C. It shows that Omar actually enjoyed the trip.
D. It plays down a disastrous weekend, which makes his list of problems sound even funnier.