

## Passage 1: The Empty Desk

On Monday morning, Maya stopped beside the empty desk next to hers. Ethan usually arrived early and began sketching ideas for their history presentation, so his absence seemed unusual. His chair was pushed in, and the model bridge he had built on Friday was still on the back shelf. When Mrs. Patel took attendance, she simply said that Ethan would be away for several days. Maya wondered what had happened, but she knew it was not polite to ask for private details.



During reading time, Mrs. Patel placed Ethan's missed handouts in a tray. Maya remembered that he had coughed several times on Friday and had rested instead of playing kickball at recess. She guessed that he might be sick. At lunch, she asked whether she could help prepare his schoolwork. Mrs. Patel agreed, so Maya organized the handouts by subject, copied the homework assignments, and placed everything in a folder labeled with Ethan's name.

Maya also asked the history group to write notes about the practice they would complete that afternoon. She added their notes and a handmade card to the folder so Ethan would know that his classmates missed him. The next day, Mrs. Patel said Ethan's family had appreciated the prepared work and that he hoped to return the following week. Maya still did not know every detail about his absence, but the clues had helped her understand how to support her friend without invading his privacy.

Name : .....Date: .....

Grade 4 School Life Realistic Fiction Reading Comprehension

## Passage 1: The Empty Desk

### Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer for each question.

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

- A. Mrs. Patel changes the class history project for everyone.
- B. Maya uses clues and prepares schoolwork for her absent friend.
- C. Ethan leaves his model bridge at school after a presentation.
- D. A history group decides to practice without taking any notes.

2. Which detail most strongly suggests that Ethan may be sick?

- A. His model bridge remained on the classroom shelf.
- B. His chair was pushed beneath the empty desk.
- C. His group planned to practice later that afternoon.
- D. He coughed on Friday and rested during recess.

3. Why did Maya organize the handouts by subject?

- A. She wanted the missed work to be clear and easy to use.
- B. She needed to remove the history notes from the folder.
- C. She hoped to finish Ethan's assignments during lunchtime.
- D. She planned to give each handout to a different student.

4. What can the reader infer about Maya?

- A. She enjoys learning private information about classmates.
- B. She prefers working alone on every classroom project.
- C. She is observant and willing to help a friend.
- D. She becomes upset when a class routine changes.

5. What can the reader infer about Ethan from the final paragraph?

- A. He has decided to leave the history group permanently.
- B. He plans to return and continue his schoolwork soon.
- C. He wants Maya to complete the bridge model for him.
- D. He expects the class to cancel its afternoon practice.

Name : ..... Date: .....

## Vocabulary

Choose the best meaning of the underlined word.

6. Ethan's absence seemed unusual.

- A. carefully planned for a later time
- B. easy for everyone to understand
- C. different from what normally happens
- D. likely to continue for many months

7. Maya organized the handouts by subject.

- A. arranged them in a clear order
- B. copied them without making changes
- C. carried them to another classroom
- D. counted them before throwing them away

8. Ethan's family appreciated the prepared work.

- A. requested that something be replaced
- B. wondered why something was missing
- C. explained how something was created
- D. felt thankful for the help received

Name : .....Date:.....

## Text Evidence

9. Which two details from the passage suggest that Ethan may be ill?

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## Making Inferences

10. What can you infer about why Maya prepared Ethan's work? Use one detail from the passage.

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### Answer Key

#### Multiple Choice

1. B
2. D
3. A
4. C
5. B

#### Vocabulary

6. C
7. A
8. D

#### Text Evidence

9. Sample Answer:

Ethan coughed several times on Friday, and he rested instead of playing kickball at recess. These clues suggest that he may be ill.

#### Making Inferences

10. Sample Answer:

I can infer that Maya prepared Ethan's work because she wanted him to keep up while he was absent. She organized his handouts and copied the assignments into a folder.