

Text Evidence and Inferences in Stories

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: ____ / 10



Quick Review

A good reader does two jobs at once: find what the story says, and figure out what it means. When you make an inference, point to the words in the text that helped you decide.

PART 1 — READ

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

The Lighthouse Keeper's Niece

Every summer, Pilar took the ferry to her uncle's lighthouse on Salt Point Island. Uncle Teo had lived there alone for nineteen years. He kept a thick notebook on the kitchen table and wrote in it every night with a pencil stub no longer than his thumb. Pilar was not allowed to read the notebook, but she was allowed to ask one question about it each day.

On her third afternoon, a storm rolled in from the north. The waves slammed against the rocks and the rain blew sideways. Uncle Teo went up the spiral stairs to check the light. Pilar followed him, even though her stomach felt tight. She did not like high places, but she did not want to be downstairs alone either.

At the top, Uncle Teo polished the great lamp with a soft cloth. "A ship out there is counting on us tonight," he said quietly. He handed Pilar the cloth and let her shine the last corner. When they walked back down, her hands were shaking, but she was smiling.

That night, Uncle Teo opened his notebook and wrote a single line. Then he turned the book toward Pilar so she could see it. The line said: "Tonight my niece helped me keep the light."

PART 2 — PRACTICE

Use the story to answer each question. The right answer — or the clues for it — is in the text.

1. Where does MOST of this story take place?
 - A. On the ferry that brings Pilar across to Salt Point Island.
 - B. Inside the lighthouse on Salt Point Island.
 - C. At Uncle Teo's house on the mainland near the dock.
 - D. On the rocky beach below the lighthouse during the storm.



2. Which detail BEST shows that Uncle Teo's notebook is important to him?
 - A. He writes a single line about Pilar on the night of the storm.
 - B. He keeps the notebook on the kitchen table where he eats every day.
 - C. He uses a very short pencil stub to write in it.
 - D. He writes in it every night and lets Pilar ask only one question about it each day.
3. Why does Pilar follow Uncle Teo up the stairs even though her stomach feels tight?
 - A. She is scared, but she does not want to wait downstairs by herself.
 - B. She wants a chance to read the notebook while he is busy at the top.
 - C. Uncle Teo has asked her to bring the polishing cloth up to him.
 - D. She wants to watch the storm from the lantern-room window.
4. What can the reader INFER about Pilar at the top of the lighthouse?
 - A. She is starting to regret climbing the stairs.
 - B. She has lost her fear of high places forever.
 - C. She is proud of helping her uncle, even though she was scared.
 - D. She has decided she wants to take over the lighthouse one day.
5. Find one sentence from the story that shows Uncle Teo trusts Pilar. Copy it on the line.

6. Which sentence from the story BEST supports the idea that the storm is DANGEROUS?
 - A. "The waves slammed against the rocks and the rain blew sideways."
 - B. "A storm rolled in from the north."
 - C. "Uncle Teo went up the spiral stairs to check the light."
 - D. "A ship out there is counting on us tonight."
7. When Uncle Teo says, "A ship out there is counting on us tonight," what does he mean?
 - A. A supply ship is on its way to the lighthouse with mail and food.
 - B. A ship caught in the storm needs the lighthouse beam to find its way safely.
 - C. A friend of his is sailing nearby and expects to see him tonight.
 - D. A ship has lost its own light and has radioed in for help.
8. What does the last line of the notebook tell the reader about how Uncle Teo FEELS at the end?
 - A. He is relieved that the storm did not damage the lamp.
 - B. He is surprised that Pilar was brave enough to climb up.
 - C. He is grateful and proud that Pilar helped him keep the light.
 - D. He is worried that Pilar will want to read the rest of his notebook.



9. Which sentence is BEST supported by the WHOLE story?
- A. Uncle Teo will let Pilar read the rest of his notebook next summer.
 - B. The lighthouse lamp would have failed without Pilar's help.
 - C. Pilar plans to become a lighthouse keeper when she grows up.
 - D. Pilar grows braver during her visit with Uncle Teo.
10. What can you tell about Uncle Teo that the story does NOT say directly? Begin with: "The story shows..." and give one piece of text evidence.



Answer Keys

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

- 6 A B C D
- 7 A B C D
- 8 A B C D
- 9 A B C D
- 10

Explanations

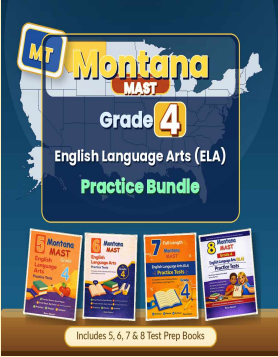
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| 1. B | Paragraph 1 places the story at the lighthouse, and the main scenes (climbing the stairs, polishing the lamp, the notebook line) all happen there. A is a true detail but only one short trip; C invents a mainland house that does not exist in the story; D moves the action outside, which never happens. |
| 2. D | D pairs daily writing with a strict one-question rule — together they prove the notebook matters. A is a true but small moment, not a pattern; B confuses placement with importance (lots of unimportant things sit on tables); C shows the pencil is well used but not that the notebook is treasured. |
| 3. A | Paragraph 2 says directly: "She did not like high places, but she did not want to be downstairs alone either." B is a tempting motive the text never confirms; C reverses the order (he polishes first, then hands her the cloth); D names a real possibility but the text gives the loneliness reason, not curiosity. |
| 4. C | Her hands shake (fear) but she is smiling (pride) — two clues read together. A ignores the smile; B overgeneralizes one moment into a forever change; D pushes the inference far past what the text supports. |
| 5. | Answer: Strong answers: (1) "He handed Pilar the cloth and let her shine the last corner." (2) "Then he turned the book toward Pilar so she could see it." (3) Either sentence about him letting her help with the lamp during a storm. NOT acceptable: any sentence the student writes in their own words instead of copying; or a sentence that only shows Uncle Teo is alone, kind, or hard-working but does not involve Pilar being trusted with something private or important. Look for moments when Uncle Teo includes Pilar in something private or important. |
| 6. A | A gives direct, vivid evidence (slamming waves, sideways rain). B only NAMES a storm without showing danger; C is Uncle Teo's response to the storm, not proof of how rough it is; D suggests danger to a ship but never describes the weather itself. |
| 7. B | The lighthouse exists to guide ships through storms — "counting on us" means depending on the light. A makes the line literal in the wrong direction (supplies, not safety); C invents a personal friend; D adds a radio the text never mentions. |
| 8. C | Putting Pilar by name into a private nightly record signals deep pride and thanks. A is about the lamp, not Pilar; B picks up only the "brave" half; D contradicts the fact that he TURNS the book so she can see this page. |
| 9. D | She begins with a tight stomach, climbs anyway, helps polish the lamp, and ends smiling — the whole arc tracks growing courage. A predicts the future without text support; B overstates her role (she shined one corner); C is an inference too far. |



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| 10. | <p>Answer: Strong answers name a trait the text shows without stating, plus a direct quote or paraphrase: e.g., "The story shows that Uncle Teo is careful — evidence: he polishes the great lamp with a soft cloth during the storm." Also acceptable: lonely (lived alone nineteen years), patient (one-question-a-day rule), proud of his work, deeply private. NOT acceptable: any trait the story STATES outright (e.g., "he writes in his notebook"); a trait with no quoted or paraphrased evidence; or a trait the story actually contradicts (e.g., careless, mean).</p> <p>Accept any inference about Uncle Teo's character that is supported with a direct text detail.</p> |
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