Citing Textual Evidence and Drawing Inferences

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10

Quick Review

An inference is a careful conclusion you draw from clues in the text. Strong evidence proves the inference DIRECTLY — the quote alone should let a reader see what you concluded, without you needing to add anything extra.

PART 1 — READ

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

The Telescope on the Roof

By her thirteenth birthday, Priya had been climbing onto the flat roof of her family's apartment building for almost a year, always at exactly 9:47 p.m. She carried the telescope her uncle had left behind when he moved to Calgary — a battered brass tube on a tripod that wobbled if you breathed on it the wrong way. Her uncle had used the telescope nightly, recording his observations in a green notebook he kept in his coat pocket. After he left, the notebook had stayed behind on the kitchen shelf, and Priya, who had only ever skimmed it once, had started a new one of her own.

Her mother did not approve of the rooftop visits and reminded Priya every evening that the building's railing was lower than the city code required. Priya always nodded, finished her homework, washed her dish, and then, at 9:46, slid open the small window at the end of the hallway. She did not lie about going up. She simply did not announce it. The roof was the only place in the neighborhood where the streetlights did not wash out the sky, and at 9:47 the lamp directly below the building blinked off for a maintenance cycle that lasted seventeen minutes — exactly long enough, if she worked quickly, to find Saturn or Mars before the light returned.

On the night of the thirteenth, Priya's mother appeared on the roof behind her without a sound. Priya did not turn around. She had been expecting this conversation for a year. Her mother stood beside the telescope for a long moment, looking up at the sky instead of at her daughter, and then said quietly, "Your uncle showed me how to find the rings, you know. I was about your age." Priya lowered the telescope. Her mother did not reach for it, but she did not walk away either. They stood there together until the streetlamp blinked back on and washed the sky pale.

The next evening, at 9:40, Priya found a folded square of paper tucked under the green notebook on the kitchen shelf. It was a hand-drawn diagram of the rooftop — her mother's careful handwriting labeled the railing, the safe distance from the edge, and a new spot, three feet farther back from where Priya usually set the tripod. Beside the diagram, in the same careful hand, was a single word: "Better." Priya carried the diagram up at 9:47, just as she always did.

PART 2 — PRACTICE

Use the passage to answer each question. For each inference, find the sentence or detail that proves it best.

1. Which sentence from the passage BEST supports the inference that Priya has carefully planned her rooftop visits around the streetlight?

A. "She carried the telescope her uncle had left behind when he moved to Calgary — a battered brass tube on a tripod that wobbled if you breathed on it the wrong way."

B. "At 9:47 the lamp directly below the building blinked off for a maintenance cycle that lasted seventeen minutes — exactly long enough, if she worked quickly, to find Saturn or Mars before the light returned."

C. "Her uncle had used the telescope nightly, recording his observations in a green notebook he kept in his coat pocket."

D. "Her mother did not approve of the rooftop visits and reminded Priya every evening that the building's railing was lower than the city code required."

2. Which detail BEST supports the inference that Priya does not want to openly defy her mother?

A. She climbs onto the roof at exactly the same time every night.

B. She finishes her homework and washes her dish before going up.

C. She does not lie about going up, but simply does not announce it.

D. She has been climbing onto the roof for almost a year.

3. Read this sentence: "Priya did not turn around. She had been expecting this conversation for a year." What does this BEST support about Priya?

A. She is bored by her mother and does not want to look at her.

B. She has known all along that her secret would eventually be discovered.

C. She is frightened and cannot face her mother right now.

D. She is angry that her mother climbed the roof without asking.

4. Which sentence BEST supports the inference that Priya's mother once shared Priya's interest in the night sky?

A. "Her mother did not approve of the rooftop visits..."

B. "Her mother stood beside the telescope for a long moment, looking up at the sky instead of at her daughter."

C. "Your uncle showed me how to find the rings, you know. I was about your age."

D. "They stood there together until the streetlamp blinked back on and washed the sky pale."

5. Based on paragraph 4, which inference about Priya's mother is BEST supported?

A. She has decided that the rooftop is too dangerous for Priya and wants her to stop.

B. She is jealous that Priya uses the telescope she once used herself.

C. She is choosing to keep Priya safe without forbidding the thing Priya loves.

D. She wants Priya to give the telescope back to her uncle in Calgary.

6. What does the detail about Priya keeping a notebook of her OWN — separate from her uncle's — MOST STRONGLY suggest?

A. Priya has lost or thrown away her uncle's notebook.

B. Priya thinks her uncle's observations were not good enough.

C. Priya wants to build her own record rather than only borrow her uncle's.

D. Priya cannot read her uncle's handwriting.

7. Based on the WHOLE passage, the reader can BEST infer that Priya and her mother —

A. have stopped speaking to each other after the rooftop confrontation.

B. have reached a quiet understanding that lets both of them care for the same thing differently.

C. agree completely about the rooftop rules from now on.

D. share a fear of the night sky that neither of them can explain.

8. Which sentence from paragraph 4 BEST supports the inference that Priya accepts her mother's offering?

A. "The next evening, at 9:40, Priya found a folded square of paper tucked under the green notebook on the kitchen shelf."

B. "It was a hand-drawn diagram of the rooftop — her mother's careful handwriting labeled the railing, the safe distance from the edge, and a new spot, three feet farther back from where Priya usually set the tripod."

C. "Beside the diagram, in the same careful hand, was a single word: \"Better.\""

D. "Priya carried the diagram up at 9:47, just as she always did."

9. What can the reader infer about WHY Priya's mother looks up at the sky "instead of at her daughter" when she first arrives on the roof? Use one quoted detail from the passage to support your answer.

_____

_____

10. Find one detail in the passage that BEST supports the inference that Priya values her uncle's influence even as she makes the hobby her own. Copy or describe the detail exactly, and in one sentence explain why it proves this.

_____

_____

Answer Keys

1	A	**B**	C	D	6	A	B	**C**	D
2	A	B	**C**	D	7	A	**B**	C	D
3	A	**B**	C	D	8	A	B	C	**D**
4	A	B	**C**	D	9	See below			
5	A	B	**C**	D	10	See below			

Explanations

1. B	B names the exact timing (9:47), the duration (seventeen minutes), and the goal (find Saturn or Mars) — three concrete details that prove deliberate planning. A only describes the telescope's condition; C describes her uncle's habit, not Priya's planning; D shows her mother's worry but not Priya's strategy.
2. C	Not lying AND not announcing is a careful middle path — she avoids both deception and confrontation, which is the precise meaning of "not wanting to openly defy." A shows routine, not the relationship to her mother; B shows responsibility but not the choice about the rules; D shows duration, which could just as easily mean she IS defying.
3. B	"Expecting this conversation for a year" shows she has lived with the awareness that this moment was coming — quiet acceptance, not surprise. A invents boredom the text never shows; C reads fear into a calm pause; D invents an emotion (anger) the rest of the scene contradicts when they stand together quietly.
4. C	The mother says directly that her own uncle once taught her, at Priya's age, how to find Saturn's rings — proof of a shared past interest. A shows disapproval, not interest; B shows what the mother does in this moment, not what she once loved; D shows togetherness now, but not earlier interest in the sky.
5. C	The diagram marks a SAFER spot, three feet farther back — and the word "Better" approves Priya's continuing, not stopping. A is the OPPOSITE of "Better"; B invents jealousy the text never shows; D adds a return-the-telescope plot the text does not give.
6. C	Starting a new notebook while her uncle's stays on the shelf shows she is doing her own work, not just inheriting his. A contradicts "the notebook had stayed behind on the kitchen shelf"; B invents a judgment of her uncle the text never makes; D invents a handwriting problem.
7. B	The mother's diagram ("Better") plus Priya's choice to carry it up at 9:47 "just as she always did" is a quiet compromise — both moving toward each other without anyone giving in. A contradicts the standing-together scene; C is too strong — Priya still goes at the same time, the rules are not identical; D reverses the text (they LOVE the sky, not fear it).
8. D	Taking the diagram up to the roof IS the acceptance — action, not just reading. A only shows she found the paper; B describes what the diagram contains; C is her mother's word, not Priya's response — only D is Priya choosing to use it.

9.	**Answer:** Strong answers explain that the mother is signaling she has come to share the moment, not to scold — supported by a quote like "Your uncle showed me how to find the rings, you know. I was about your age," which shows the sky is meaningful to her too. Acceptable variations: she does not want to make Priya feel cornered; she is choosing the gentler approach; she is remembering her own thirteenth year before she speaks. NOT acceptable: answers without any quote; answers that say she is angry and looking away (the diagram in paragraph 4 contradicts anger); answers that say she is afraid of heights. Look at what she SAYS next, and at what she does NOT do (she does not reach for the telescope or walk away).
10.	**Answer:** Strongest evidence: she keeps using "the telescope her uncle had left behind" AND "started a new one of her own" notebook — the tool is borrowed, the work is hers. Also acceptable: she still goes up at the exact time her uncle's habits would have suggested; she keeps the green notebook on the shelf instead of throwing it away. Reason must connect the detail to BOTH halves — honoring the uncle AND making it her own. NOT acceptable: any detail only about her mother; "she is thirteen" (not about her uncle); answers that pick a detail but never explain why it shows both halves. The best detail should show her using something from her uncle AND something she has added herself.

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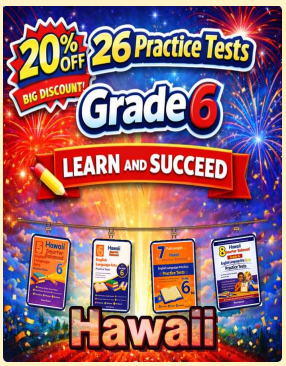

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