

Citing Several Pieces of Textual Evidence

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: ____ / 10



Quick Review

In Grade 7, one quoted line is rarely enough — strong analysis stacks SEVERAL pieces of evidence so that an inference cannot be explained any other way. Look for clusters of detail that point at the same conclusion.

PART 1 — READ

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.



The Coast Guard Test

Mateo had been preparing for the junior lifeguard examination for fourteen weeks, and on the morning of the test he discovered that his swim cap was missing from his locker. He did not say anything to his older sister, Lucia, who drove him to the municipal pool in silence because she had a calculus exam of her own at noon. He had borrowed the cap from her in January and had never given it back, and the fact that he could not now produce it felt, in a small and private way, like the first failure of the day before the day had really begun.

At the pool deck, the head examiner — a woman named Captain Reyes who had served on real Coast Guard cutters before she retired into teaching — read the rules aloud in a voice that did not invite questions. "Two events," she said. "The four-hundred-meter swim and the brick recovery. You will be timed. You will be observed. You will not be coached." Mateo understood the rules; he had read them three times the night before. What he had not anticipated was the way his hands began, very faintly, to tremble while the captain spoke — not from fear of the swim, which he could do, but from the idea that someone he respected was about to watch him do it.

On the four-hundred, Mateo swam the first two hundred meters too fast, which he knew the moment he hit the wall. He could feel his lungs catching up to him the way an argument catches up to a tired person. In the last hundred meters, he made a decision that surprised him: he slowed down on purpose, took two slower breaths, and finished a full eight seconds behind his practice best. Captain Reyes wrote something on her clipboard without looking up. She did not say if it was good or bad. The other candidates beside him, several of whom had not paced themselves at all, were still gasping at the wall when Mateo climbed out for the brick.

The brick recovery — diving for a ten-pound brick at the deep end and bringing it to the surface — Mateo had done a hundred times. He had never done it under a stopwatch held by a former Coast Guard officer. He took one breath, dove, found the brick exactly where it had landed, and surfaced calmly. Captain Reyes wrote again, then finally looked at him. "You learned something between the first event and the second one," she said. It was not a question. Mateo nodded. He did not yet know that Lucia, who had finished her calculus exam early, was standing at the back of the pool gallery, holding the missing swim cap she had found that morning in the laundry — and that she had decided, after watching him slow down on purpose at the two-fifty mark, not to interrupt.

PART 2 — PRACTICE

Use the passage to answer each question. For most items, the strongest answer is supported by MORE THAN ONE detail in the text.

1. Which TWO details together BEST support the inference that Mateo deeply respects Captain Reyes?
 - A. He reads the rules three times the night before AND his hands begin to tremble when she speaks.
 - B. He swims the first two hundred meters too fast AND he slows down at the two-fifty mark.
 - C. He has done the brick recovery a hundred times AND he finds it exactly where it landed.
 - D. He borrows the swim cap from Lucia AND he never returns it.



2. Which sentence from the passage BEST supports the inference that Mateo's nerves come from being WATCHED, not from doubting his swimming?
- A. "He could feel his lungs catching up to him the way an argument catches up to a tired person."
 - B. "His hands began, very faintly, to tremble while the captain spoke — not from fear of the swim, which he could do, but from the idea that someone he respected was about to watch him do it."
 - C. "He had done the brick recovery a hundred times."
 - D. "He took one breath, dove, found the brick exactly where it had landed, and surfaced calmly."
3. Which TWO pieces of evidence BEST support the inference that Mateo learns to ADJUST his strategy in real time?
- A. He misses his swim cap at his locker AND he does not tell Lucia.
 - B. He swims the first two hundred too fast AND he chooses to slow down for the last hundred to finish under control.
 - C. He reads the rules three times AND he does not ask questions during the briefing.
 - D. He had done the brick recovery a hundred times AND he dives without hesitation.
4. Which detail BEST supports the inference that Captain Reyes notices Mateo's decision to slow down?
- A. "She read the rules aloud in a voice that did not invite questions."
 - B. "Captain Reyes wrote something on her clipboard without looking up."
 - C. "'You learned something between the first event and the second one,' she said."
 - D. "The other candidates beside him, several of whom had not paced themselves at all, were still gasping at the wall."
5. Based on paragraph 1, which inference about Mateo's relationship with Lucia is BEST supported?
- A. The two of them are not on speaking terms and avoid each other most days.
 - B. Lucia resents Mateo and would rather not drive him anywhere ever again.
 - C. The two are close enough that Mateo can borrow her things, but he has not yet learned to return them.
 - D. Lucia is afraid that Mateo will fail the test and embarrass the family.
6. Which TWO details together BEST support the inference that Lucia, by the END of the passage, has CHANGED how she sees her younger brother?
- A. She drives him to the pool in silence AND she has a calculus exam at noon.
 - B. She has finished her calculus exam early AND she stands at the back of the gallery instead of leaving.
 - C. She watches him slow down at the two-fifty mark AND she decides not to interrupt.
 - D. B and C are both correct.



7. Based on the WHOLE passage, the reader can BEST infer that Mateo passes the test because —
- A. he is the fastest swimmer in the group and beats his personal record.
 - B. Captain Reyes is impressed by his preparation more than by his performance.
 - C. he shows the judgment to recover from his own pacing mistake, not just the skill to swim and dive.
 - D. Lucia finds his missing swim cap and brings it to the gallery.
8. Which sentence from paragraph 4 BEST supports the inference that Captain Reyes has been watching Mateo more closely than her quiet clipboard suggests?
- A. "He had done the brick recovery a hundred times."
 - B. "Captain Reyes wrote again, then finally looked at him."
 - C. "'You learned something between the first event and the second one,' she said. It was not a question."
 - D. "He took one breath, dove, found the brick exactly where it had landed, and surfaced calmly."
9. What can the reader infer about WHY Lucia decides not to interrupt Mateo at the gallery? Use TWO pieces of evidence from the passage to support your answer.

10. Identify TWO details that together support the inference that Mateo grows from the start of the passage to the end. Quote or describe each detail and explain in one sentence what each one shows.



Answer Keys

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

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

Explanations

1. A	Preparing carefully (reading rules three times) AND the small tremble specifically tied to "someone he respected" — together those two details prove the respect. B is about pacing, not the captain; C is about practice and skill; D is about the cap and has nothing to do with the captain.
2. B	B names BOTH halves directly: not fear of the swim AND the watching. A is a feeling that comes mid-swim and does not name the cause; C and D show he is technically capable but do not address nerves at all.
3. B	Recognizing the mistake mid-swim AND choosing a slower pace IS in-the-moment adjustment. A is about the morning before the test; C is preparation, not adjustment; D is rehearsed competence, not strategy change.
4. C	Her line names what changed BETWEEN the two events — that is the slowing-down decision, named by the examiner herself. A is the briefing, before the swim; B shows she is recording, but not what she saw; D describes other candidates, not Mateo.
5. C	Borrowing the cap in January AND her silence being explained by her own exam (not anger) AND her arriving later with the cap she found — together the details show a real but imperfect closeness. A is contradicted by the ride and the gallery visit; B invents resentment; D invents fear.
6. D	Showing up at all (B) AND choosing not to interrupt after seeing him pace himself (C) — together those moments show she sees him differently than the borrowing-and-not-returning brother of paragraph 1. A is morning behavior, before any change.
7. C	Captain Reyes's line — "You learned something between the first event and the second one" — names judgment, not raw speed; AND he finishes EIGHT SECONDS slower than his practice best. A contradicts the eight-second detail; B reverses the captain's focus; D would have helped but happens too late to affect the swim.
8. C	Making a statement (not asking) about something that happened BETWEEN events proves she tracked the change closely. A is Mateo's experience; B shows she looked at him but not what she saw; D is Mateo's action, not the captain's observation.



9.	<p>Answer: Strong answers explain that Lucia sees Mateo handling the test on his own — specifically, the way he paces himself at the two-fifty mark — and recognizes that bringing him the cap mid-test would undo the very thing he is proving he can do. Strong evidence pairs: (a) she watches him "slow down on purpose at the two-fifty mark" AND (b) she has known him as the brother who borrows and forgets to return — interrupting would treat him like that brother instead of this one. Other acceptable pairs: her own exam being over (so the choice is hers) AND the fact that he has not asked for help. NOT acceptable: answers with only one piece of evidence; answers that say she is being mean; answers that invent details ("she is too far away to walk down").</p> <p>Pick two details, not one. The strongest answers PAIR a detail about Mateo with a detail about Lucia.</p>
10.	<p>Answer: Strong answers cite TWO clearly different details and connect each to growth. Examples: (a) at the start his hands tremble when the captain speaks, but at the end he surfaces "calmly" with the brick — calmness has replaced the tremor; (b) at the start he swims the first 200m too fast, but by the end he chooses to slow down on purpose — recognition has replaced impulse; (c) at the start he cannot produce the cap he borrowed, but by the end Captain Reyes confirms "You learned something" — a small failure has been answered by visible learning. NOT acceptable: only one detail; two details that say the same thing; details about Lucia only.</p> <p>Two details, two different growth points. A change in Mateo's BODY (calm vs. trembling) and a change in his JUDGMENT (slowing down vs. starting too fast) usually work well.</p>




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