Citing Strong Evidence and Making Inferences

Name: _____	Date: _____	Score: _____ / 10

Quick Review

Strong literary analysis is built from exact evidence. For each inference, ask whether the quoted detail would still support the answer if it stood by itself.

PART 1 — READ

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

The Glasshouse Clock

Every afternoon, Elena crossed the empty greenhouse behind the old library and wound the brass clock that hung above the seed tables. The clock had belonged to her grandfather, who once grew orchids there for the town festival. Now the roof panels were patched with plastic, the benches were dusty, and only a row of stubborn basil plants kept the room from feeling abandoned.

On Thursday, the library board posted a notice: the greenhouse would be cleared for storage unless someone could show it still mattered. Elena folded the notice twice and put it in her pocket. At home, she spread her grandfather's notebooks across the kitchen table. Between sketches of roots and watering schedules, she found names: Mr. Harrow, lilacs; Mrs. Bell, tomatoes; Sixth Grade, marigolds.

The next morning, Elena taped copies of three notebook pages to the greenhouse door. By noon, people had added sticky notes around them: I learned to plant peas here. My mother met my father at the festival. We still have the rosebush. When the board chair arrived, he read silently for a long time. Then he asked Elena whether the clock still worked. She wound it once, and the room filled with its small, steady ticking.

A week later, volunteers carried out the broken shelves and brought in trays of seedlings. Elena did not make a speech. She only rehung the notice on the inside of the door, where the word storage was crossed out and replaced, in the chair's handwriting, with community garden.

PART 2 — PRACTICE

Use the passage to answer each question. Choose the best answer and support short responses with evidence.

1. Which sentence from the passage BEST supports the inference that Elena believes the greenhouse has value beyond its physical condition.?

A. The roof panels were patched with plastic.

B. Between sketches of roots and watering schedules, she found names: Mr. Harrow, lilacs; Mrs. Bell, tomatoes; Sixth Grade, marigolds.

C. Every afternoon, Elena crossed the empty greenhouse.

D. She wound the brass clock that hung above the seed tables.

2. Which statement BEST expresses the central idea or theme of the passage?

A. A place can matter because of the memories and relationships it has helped grow.

B. Old buildings should always be preserved exactly as they are.

C. Gardening is easier when many people volunteer.

D. Rules are unfair when young people disagree with them.

3. What does the word 'stubborn' most nearly mean as it is used in the passage?

A. unkind

B. confusing

C. hard to remove or defeat

D. expensive

4. How does the structure or key detail identified in the passage contribute to meaning?

A. They prove the clock is worth money.

B. They show that Elena wants to leave town.

C. They explain why basil grows well indoors.

D. The notebook pages change the conflict by turning Elena's private memory into public evidence.

5. Which conclusion is BEST supported by the whole passage?

A. He wants Elena to stop visiting the greenhouse.

B. The board chair changes his mind because he sees that many residents connect the greenhouse with shared history.

C. He believes the greenhouse is too dangerous to enter.

D. He plans to sell the clock to pay for repairs.

6. Which choice is the BEST objective summary of the passage?

A. Elena responds to a plan to use the old greenhouse for storage by showing the town its shared memories, which helps turn the space into a community garden.

B. Elena repairs a broken clock so the library board will give her a job.

C. A town festival fails because people forget how to grow flowers.

D. A library board clears an old greenhouse despite Elena's objections.

7. Which answer should be rejected because it goes beyond what the passage supports?

A. A place can matter because of the memories and relationships it has helped grow.

B. The board chair changes his mind because he sees that many residents connect the greenhouse with shared history.

C. Old buildings should always be preserved exactly as they are.

D. The notebook pages change the conflict by turning Elena's private memory into public evidence.

8. Which detail would be MOST useful to quote in a written response about the passage?

A. The roof panels were patched with plastic.

B. Every afternoon, Elena crossed the empty greenhouse.

C. She wound the brass clock that hung above the seed tables.

D. Between sketches of roots and watering schedules, she found names: Mr. Harrow, lilacs; Mrs. Bell, tomatoes; Sixth Grade, marigolds.

9. In 2-3 sentences, explain how one quoted detail supports the idea that Elena believes the greenhouse has value beyond its physical condition..

_____

_____

10. Write a one-sentence analysis of the passage's message or main idea. Then name one detail that supports it.

_____

_____

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	The correct evidence directly proves the stated inference rather than merely mentioning the same topic.
2. A	The correct answer covers the whole passage, while the distractors are too narrow, too extreme, or unsupported.
3. C	The context around the word points to this meaning in this passage.
4. D	The correct answer explains the role the detail plays in the development of the text.
5. B	The correct conclusion follows from multiple details, not from a single isolated word.
6. A	A strong summary includes the main conflict or idea and the outcome without personal opinion.
7. C	This choice overstates or invents an idea that the passage does not prove.
8. D	This detail is specific enough to support analysis in a written response.
9.	**Answer:** A strong response quotes or closely paraphrases: Between sketches of roots and watering schedules, she found names: Mr. Harrow, lilacs; Mrs. Bell, tomatoes; Sixth Grade, marigolds. Then it explains how that detail proves the inference instead of only repeating it. Use exact wording from the text or task, then explain your reasoning.
10.	**Answer:** A strong response states: A place can matter because of the memories and relationships it has helped grow. It supports the statement with a precise detail such as: Between sketches of roots and watering schedules, she found names: Mr. Harrow, lilacs; Mrs. Bell, tomatoes; Sixth Grade, marigolds. Use exact wording from the text or task, then explain your reasoning.

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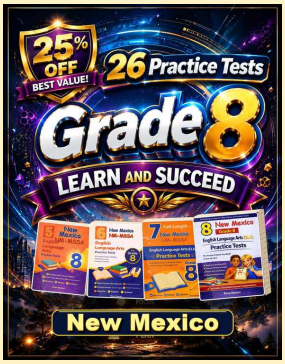

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