

Dialogue, Incidents, and Character Decisions

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: ____ / 10



Quick Review

In grade 8, plot analysis focuses on how a line of dialogue or one incident pushes a character toward a choice. Track cause, reaction, and decision.

PART 1 — READ

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

The Last Seat on the Team

Amira had been the fastest coder in robotics club all year, and everyone expected her to take the final competition seat. During tryouts, she solved the maze program in eleven minutes, then leaned back while Mateo struggled beside her.

When the robot jerked sideways and knocked over a stack of markers, Mateo flushed. Amira almost laughed, but Coach Imani asked, Who noticed what the robot did before it turned? No one answered. Mateo raised his hand slowly and explained that the sensor was reading the table leg as a wall.

Coach Imani gave the team a new challenge: build a program only by asking questions of another teammate. Amira hated the rule. Without touching the keyboard, she had to explain her thinking to Mateo, and she discovered that he noticed patterns she rushed past.

At the end of practice, Coach Imani posted two names for the final seats: Amira and Mateo. Amira stared at the list, surprised by the relief she felt. For the first time, she understood that being the fastest was not the same as being the whole team.

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 Amira initially values speed more than collaboration?
 - A. Mateo raised his hand slowly.
 - B. She solved the maze program in eleven minutes, then leaned back while Mateo struggled beside her.
 - C. Coach Imani posted two names for the final seats.
 - D. The robot jerked sideways and knocked over markers.



2. Which statement BEST expresses the central idea or theme of the passage?
 - A. A talented person becomes stronger when she learns to value another person's different kind of skill.
 - B. Competitions should reward only the fastest worker.
 - C. Robots are too difficult for students to program.
 - D. Teachers should never change tryout rules.
3. What does the word 'relief' most nearly mean as it is used in the passage?
 - A. anger at an unfair choice
 - B. confusion about directions
 - C. a feeling of glad release from worry
 - D. pride without surprise
4. How does the structure or key detail identified in the passage contribute to meaning?
 - A. It proves Mateo is already team captain.
 - B. It removes Amira from the story.
 - C. It shows the robot cannot be repaired.
 - D. Mateo's observation is the incident that makes Coach Imani test collaboration instead of speed alone.
5. Which conclusion is BEST supported by the whole passage?
 - A. Coach Imani wants Amira to fail.
 - B. Coach Imani is testing whether students can think with a partner, not just perform alone.
 - C. Coach Imani cares only about neat workspaces.
 - D. Coach Imani has already chosen Mateo before tryouts start.
6. Which choice is the BEST objective summary of the passage?
 - A. During robotics tryouts, Amira first dismisses Mateo but learns through a partner challenge that his careful observations make the team better.
 - B. Amira loses her place on the robotics team because Mateo breaks the robot.
 - C. Mateo teaches Coach Imani how to program a maze robot.
 - D. A robotics club cancels tryouts after a robot falls off the table.
7. Which answer should be rejected because it goes beyond what the passage supports?
 - A. A talented person becomes stronger when she learns to value another person's different kind of skill.
 - B. Coach Imani is testing whether students can think with a partner, not just perform alone.
 - C. Competitions should reward only the fastest worker.
 - D. Mateo's observation is the incident that makes Coach Imani test collaboration instead of speed alone.



8. Which detail would be MOST useful to quote in a written response about the passage?
- A. Mateo raised his hand slowly.
 - B. Coach Imani posted two names for the final seats.
 - C. The robot jerked sideways and knocked over markers.
 - D. She solved the maze program in eleven minutes, then leaned back while Mateo struggled beside her.
9. In 2-3 sentences, explain how one quoted detail supports the idea that Amira initially values speed more than collaboration..

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



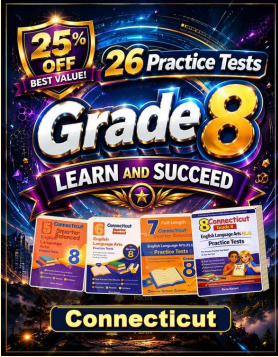
Answer Keys

<p>1 <input type="radio"/> A <input checked="" type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>2 <input checked="" type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>3 <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input checked="" type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>4 <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input checked="" type="radio"/> D</p> <p>5 <input type="radio"/> A <input checked="" type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p>	<p>6 <input checked="" type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>7 <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input checked="" type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>8 <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input checked="" type="radio"/> D</p> <p>9 <input type="text" value="See below"/></p> <p>10 <input type="text" value="See below"/></p>
---	--

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: She solved the maze program in eleven minutes, then leaned back while Mateo struggled beside her. 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 talented person becomes stronger when she learns to value another person's different kind of skill. It supports the statement with a precise detail such as: She solved the maze program in eleven minutes, then leaned back while Mateo struggled beside her. Use exact wording from the text or task, then explain your reasoning.



Want Even More Practice? Check Out Our Other Connecticut Smarter Balanced ELA Test Books!




Connecticut Smarter Balanced Grade 8 ELA Preparation Bundle

26 full-length practice tests across four books (5 + 6 + 7 + 8)

No repeated questions — maximum practice value!

▼ **DOWNLOAD INSTANTLY** ▼



SCAN ME

Point your phone camera at the code · instant access to all four books

26 Tests!

4 Books

One Bundle

Important: All our test books contain **unique, completely different tests** from each other! Each book offers fresh practice questions — no repeats!

<h4 style="margin: 0;">5 Practice Tests</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 5 complete practice tests with detailed explanations ✓ Perfect foundation for Smarter Balanced ELA prep ✓ Builds confidence and test-taking skills ✓ High-quality questions aligned with standards <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Start your practice journey!</p>	<h4 style="margin: 0;">6 Practice Tests</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 6 complete practice tests with detailed explanations ✓ Unique tests — different from the 5 tests book ✓ Perfect for more practice after mastering 5 tests ✓ Same high-quality questions aligned with standards <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Take your practice to the next level!</p>	<h4 style="margin: 0;">7 Practice Tests</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 7 complete practice tests for deeper preparation ✓ Unique tests — different from 5 and 6 tests books ✓ Builds stamina with full-length practice ✓ Aligned to Grade 8 Smarter Balanced ELA standards <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Maximum preparation power!</p>	<h4 style="margin: 0;">8 Practice Tests</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 8 complete practice tests — our largest book ✓ Unique tests — different from 5, 6 and 7 books ✓ Great for final review before test day ✓ Builds true test stamina and confidence <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Be fully prepared!</p>
--	--	--	---

Get the bundle at [EffortlessMath.com](https://www.EffortlessMath.com) — scan the QR code above to open the product page.