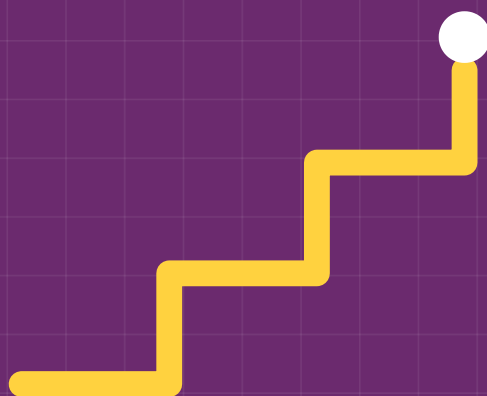




UpOnly Learning



GRADE 8

FREE SAMPLE WORKBOOK

Reading Grade 8

One step at a time. · Ages 13–14 · Free sample: 1 of 8 topics

UO-READ-8

One step at a time

I'm Dr. Evan J. Hasson. I've run a specific chiropractic practice for over twelve years, and I'm a dad of three. My work is about alignment: get the structure right, and everything else works better.

At home, nothing was aligned. I was spending thousands a month on tutors, extracurriculars and programs, and when I asked about enrolling a second or third child the answer was always the same: that'll be double, that'll be triple. The charter school had a waiting list. The good public school had a waiting list. The private schools had the kind of list where it helps to know someone, or to give generously first.

And underneath all of it, the same quiet threat: if you don't pay for this, your child will fall behind. Not sold with evidence. Sold with fear.

So I did my own research, and here is what I found: none of it is secret. The standards are published. The order a child should learn in is written down and freely available. It is just scattered. Nobody had done the work of pulling it together, putting it in order and handing it over. So I did.

When every step has its place, confusion has nowhere to hide.

I built this for my own kids. I'm giving it to yours.

Dr. Evan J. Hasson, DC

Founder and dad of three

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No guaranteed results, and mistakes happen. Every student learns differently. We write and review every question and answer key carefully, and we still get things wrong — an answer key can be wrong, and a question can be worded badly or have two defensible answers. Check the answer key before you hand it over, and trust your own judgement over ours. Found a problem? **Photograph the page and email it to support@uponlylearning.com** — the picture tells us more than a description, and we fix it for every family.

Safety. Some activities use household items such as scissors, coins or food. An adult should supervise and skip anything unsafe for the student.

Not professional advice. This workbook does not replace an evaluation by a qualified educator or specialist. The founder is a Doctor of Chiropractic; UpOnly Learning does not provide medical or health advice.

Full terms: uponlylearning.com/legal

How to use this workbook

Each topic follows the same steps, so your student always knows what comes next.

1. ① **Quick Check.** 10 questions before you teach. Read them aloud for younger students. A high score means you can move faster.
2. ② **Learn It.** Key words, step-by-step teaching with lines you can read aloud, worked examples and the mistakes to watch for.
3. ③ **We Do It Together.** 10 questions you do side by side. The answer and the "why" are printed right after each question, so you can talk it through.
4. ④ **You Try.** 10 questions your student does alone.

Answers with short explanations for every question are in the **Answer Key** at the end of each topic, so students can work without peeking. Go over each wrong answer together using the explanation.

This workbook is printed in full color. To save ink, choose "Black and white" or "Grayscale" in your printer settings; every page still works in black and white.

Want online checks that score themselves and track each student's progress? Visit uponlylearning.com.



How to use this Reading book in Grade 8

Pace

Plan on 1 to 2 weeks for each of the 8 topics, about 8 to 16 weeks for the book, in 2 to 4 sessions a week.

A typical session

A 40 to 45 minute session runs Quick Check, Learn It, We Do It Together, and a block of You Try questions, with Show What You Know saved for its own day at the end of the topic.

Tips for this book

- For Choosing the strongest evidence, have your student list two or three possible quotes and explain why one is stronger than the others.
- Dialogue and incidents that drive a story and Dramatic irony and suspense are easier with a short scene read aloud, one student reading each part.
- Spotting irrelevant evidence works well with an opinion piece; ask which details do not help prove the author's claim.
- Encourage your student to mark their own work with the answer key and explain any changed answer using the text.

Your eighth grader is reading like a critic, and your willingness to listen to their analysis shows that careful thinking matters.

GRADE 8

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Reading: Grade 8

Free Sample Workbook · Ages 13–14 · 1 of 8 topics, with a Quick Check, a lesson, We Do It Together, You Try and an answer key

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Choosing the strongest evidence

The student will cite the text evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what a story says explicitly and what it implies.

① Quick Check

Do this before the lesson. It shows what your student already knows. Score: ____ / 10

The Fence

The fence between the Okafors' yard and Mr. Hale's had been leaning for two summers. Mr. Hale grumbled about it every time he saw them. The Okafors grumbled back about his unmowed grass. They had not spoken a friendly word in a year.

One October evening, Ms. Okafor looked out the window and saw Mr. Hale on his knees at the base of the fence, holding a level up to a post. He worked until dark. The next morning the fence stood straight, and a small paper bag hung from one post, as if left for her to find. Inside were six apples from his tree.

She did not know what to say. She put the bag on the counter and stared at it. Then, that afternoon, she carried a pie to his gate, an apple pie, because she had no better idea, and knocked once. He opened the door slowly. He looked at the pie.

"I've never been good at this," he said.

"Neither have I," she said.

1. What was in the paper bag?
A A thank-you note **B** A key **C** Six apples
2. A student says the pie is a payment for the apples. What is the flaw?
A The text says she paid him with money for the apples he had left on the post
B The text shows she had no better idea and was answering a kindness with one of her own
C The pie was meant for someone else

Start with Tuesday

Tomas had practiced his opening statement in front of the bathroom mirror forty times. Standing at the podium in the auditorium, he looked out at the judges, the rows of parents and, in the third row, the empty chair where his father had promised to sit. His notes shook in his hands. The first sentence he had memorized vanished.

Across the stage, his rival Elise watched him. She had beaten him in the regional round and had told everyone she would do it again. She cleared her throat loudly, then tapped her own notecard twice. Then she mouthed three words: Start with Tuesday.

Tuesday was the day of his best example, the broken crosswalk light that had started his whole argument. He took a breath. "Last Tuesday," he began, "my neighbor crossed the street ..." and the rest came back, one sentence at a time.

Afterward, Elise packed her bag without a word. "Thanks," Tomas said. She shrugged, but she did not walk away at once.

3. What was Tuesday?

- A** The day of the regional tournament **B** The day of Tomas's best example **C** His birthday **D** The day he lost

4. What three words did Elise mouth?

- A** Look at me **B** Take a breath and begin **C** Start with Tuesday **D** You can do it

5. Which detail suggests that something besides the contest is troubling Tomas?

- A** The empty chair where his father had promised to sit
B The judges at the front of the auditorium, who were watching him closely **C** The bathroom mirror
D The microphone

Night Shift

Dev's mother worked nights at the hospital, so the apartment was always quiet when he woke up. The note on the refrigerator was there every morning: a smiley face, a reminder about his lunch, and the word Love, underlined once. Dev never wrote back. He thought notes were for people who were bad at talking.

On the morning of his twelfth birthday, there was no note. Dev stood in front of the refrigerator and felt something drop in his stomach. Then he noticed a cake box on the counter, and under it a note longer than any she had ever written, a full page covered edge to edge. He read it standing up. He read it again at the table.

Before school, he found a pen. Under his mother's smiley face, in handwriting that slanted uphill, he wrote Love, too, and underlined it twice. He left the page on the kitchen table and ran to catch the bus, smiling the whole way.

6. What was under the cake box?

- A** A long note **B** A key **C** A birthday present **D** A phone

7. What does Dev's reply suggest about him by the end?

- A** He still dislikes notes and will not write back **B** He is angry **C** He is ready to show affection in writing

8. Why is 'underlined it twice' significant?

- A** It shows he is copying his mother's note exactly **B** It shows he is rushing
C His mother underlined Love once, so he answers with even more emphasis
D It shows he made a mistake in his first try and tried to correct it

The Telescope

For eleven months, Priya had kept an envelope inside her math textbook. Every time she earned five dollars walking the neighbor's dog, she folded the bill and slid it in. The telescope in the shop window cost two hundred and forty dollars. On the day she counted two hundred and twelve, she was so excited that she took the long way home just to pass the window.

The shop was closed, but outside the church next door, people were leaving the shelter's meal line. Among them was Amy from her class, who had stopped coming to the cafeteria last week and always said she wasn't hungry.

Priya stood on the sidewalk for a long time. She took the envelope out of her backpack and looked at it. Then she walked to the corner store and bought rice, beans and cereal. Without looking at Amy, she left the bag on a table by the church door. The envelope went back into her backpack, thinner by ten dollars.

9. Which detail best shows how much Priya wanted the telescope?

- A** She kept the envelope inside her math textbook **B** The shop was closed **C** She bought rice
D She took the long way home just to pass the window

The Last Practice

Marcus arrived at practice twenty minutes early, which was unusual, because he normally arrived late and laughing. Today he laced his shoes in the empty gym without a word. When Coach Ames walked in, Marcus stood up too quickly and winced, then covered it by tying his shoe again.

"Ready to run?" Coach asked.

"Always," Marcus said. He ran the first drill at full speed. On the second, he stopped at the baseline and bent over, hands on his knees, counting under his breath as if he were only catching his breath.

Coach watched from the sideline. He did not mention that Marcus had skipped the pizza after the last game, which he never did. He blew the whistle. "Water break," he said, a minute earlier than planned.

Later, Marcus's sister opened the freezer and found an ice pack in the spot where the ice cream belonged, its blue wrapping soft with melting.

10. Which pair of quotations most convincingly supports the idea that Marcus is injured and hiding it?

- A** 'arrived at practice twenty minutes early' and 'laced his shoes' **B** 'ran the first drill at full speed' and 'Always'
C 'winced, then covered it' and 'found an ice pack'

② Learn It

Key words

- **strongest evidence:** the quotation that most directly and clearly proves a point
- **inference:** a logical conclusion drawn from text clues
- **analysis:** an explanation of how or why something in a text works
- **relevance:** how closely evidence connects to a claim
- **embed:** to blend a quotation smoothly into your own sentence

The letter arrived on a Tuesday, which was the day Nadia's father always worked late. She knew the logo on the envelope before she even picked it up: the state science fair. Her hands went cold.

She did not open it. She set it on the kitchen table, squared its corners with the edge, and went to make dinner for her two younger brothers, the way she did every Tuesday. She boiled pasta. She cut apples into thin moons. She helped Yusuf with his spelling words and reminded Sami three times to wash his hands.

The envelope sat there the whole time, white and patient.

When her father came home at nine, his uniform smelling of the hospital laundry where he worked, he saw it immediately. He looked at Nadia. Nadia looked at the floor.

"You have not opened it," he said.

"If it says no," she said quietly, "then I spent all those nights in the library for nothing. And if it says yes, the trip is three days. Who would make dinner?"

Her father sat down. He was quiet for a long time. Then he slid the envelope across the table toward her. "Open it," he said. "Tuesdays are my problem. Your future is yours."

Warm-up

1. Give three pieces of evidence that it rained last night: the sidewalk is wet, someone mentioned rain, there is a puddle under the gutter. Ask which is strongest.
2. Explain that some evidence proves a point better than others.

In eighth grade, it is not enough to find evidence. You have to find the best evidence.

Teach

1. Read the passage aloud.
2. Pose an analysis: Nadia puts her family's needs ahead of her own dreams.
3. List possible evidence: she makes dinner every Tuesday; she sets the letter aside; Who would make dinner?
4. Evaluate: Who would make dinner? is strongest because it directly connects her hesitation about the fair to her family duties. The other details support but are less direct.
5. Teach the test for strongest evidence: direct, specific and clearly connected to the exact claim.
6. Model embedding: Nadia worries about her family more than herself, asking, "Who would make dinner?"

The strongest evidence is the one that leaves the least room for doubt.

Guided practice

1. Do the examples together.
2. For problems 1 to 3, have the student find the evidence; for later problems, have them rank evidence from strongest to weakest.

Out of everything you found, which quote would convince a skeptic fastest?

Worked examples

Which detail most strongly shows Nadia is anxious about the letter?

Her hands went cold. It is a direct physical reaction the moment she recognizes the envelope, while setting the letter aside could have several explanations.

What does the father's last line imply about how he sees Nadia's responsibilities? Cite the strongest evidence.

He believes she has been carrying responsibilities that should be his and wants her to put her own future first. The strongest evidence is: "Tuesdays are my problem. Your future is yours."

Watch for these mistakes

Mistake: The longest quotation is the strongest evidence.

Fix: Strength comes from how directly the quotation proves the point, not its length. A short line can be the most powerful.

Mistake: Any evidence that supports my point is equally good.

Fix: Have the student compare two quotes and ask which one would still prove the point if a reader saw only that quote. That one is stronger.

③ We Do It Together: 10 questions

Do these side by side. Read each question together, let your student answer, then read the answer and the "why" right below it and talk it through.

The Fence

The fence between the Okafors' yard and Mr. Hale's had been leaning for two summers. Mr. Hale grumbled about it every time he saw them. The Okafors grumbled back about his unmowed grass. They had not spoken a friendly word in a year.

One October evening, Ms. Okafor looked out the window and saw Mr. Hale on his knees at the base of the fence, holding a level up to a post. He worked until dark. The next morning the fence stood straight, and a small paper bag hung from one post, as if left for her to find. Inside were six apples from his tree.

She did not know what to say. She put the bag on the counter and stared at it. Then, that afternoon, she carried a pie to his gate, an apple pie, because she had no better idea, and knocked once. He opened the door slowly. He looked at the pie.

"I've never been good at this," he said.

"Neither have I," she said.

1. How long had the fence been leaning?

- A** Two days **B** One winter **C** Two summers **D** Ten years

Answer: C Two summers

Why: The text says: "Mr. Hale's had been leaning for two summers."

2. Which quotation best shows both neighbors are awkward about making peace?

- A** 'The fence stood straight, and a small paper bag hung from one post.'
B 'I've never been good at this,' he said. 'Neither have I,' she said. **C** 'He worked until dark.'
D 'Inside were six apples.'

Answer: B 'I've never been good at this,' he said. 'Neither have I,' she said.

Why: Both speakers admit the same difficulty. The text says: "I've never been good at this," he said. "Neither have I," she said.

Grandmother's Recipe

Every Sunday, Lena's grandmother made dumplings from a recipe she had never written down. Lena had watched her a hundred times, but today Grandmother stood at the counter holding a bag of flour and looking at it as though she had forgotten its name.

"The water," Grandmother said finally. "How much water?"

"A little at a time," Lena said gently. "You always say, until it feels like an earlobe."

Grandmother laughed, but the laugh was thin. She pressed a thumb into the dough, then held the thumb up to the light as if the answer might be written on it.

That night, Lena took a notebook from her backpack. At the top of a clean page she wrote Grandmother's Dumplings, and under it, in careful capitals, UNTIL IT FEELS LIKE AN EARLOBE. She did not tell her grandmother what she was doing. Each Sunday afterward, she stood a little closer to the counter, and she wrote down everything she saw.

3. How often does Lena's grandmother make dumplings?

- A** Once a month **B** Only on holidays **C** Every Sunday **D** Every day

Answer: C Every Sunday

Why: The first sentence tells when. The text says: "Every Sunday, Lena's grandmother made dumplings."

The Telescope

For eleven months, Priya had kept an envelope inside her math textbook. Every time she earned five dollars walking the neighbor's dog, she folded the bill and slid it in. The telescope in the shop window cost two hundred and forty dollars. On the day she counted two hundred and twelve, she was so excited that she took the long way home just to pass the window.

The shop was closed, but outside the church next door, people were leaving the shelter's meal line. Among them was Amy from her class, who had stopped coming to the cafeteria last week and always said she wasn't hungry.

Priya stood on the sidewalk for a long time. She took the envelope out of her backpack and looked at it. Then she walked to the corner store and bought rice, beans and cereal. Without looking at Amy, she left the bag on a table by the church door. The envelope went back into her backpack, thinner by ten dollars.

4. How much had Priya saved on the day she counted?

- A** \$212 **B** \$25 **C** \$240 **D** \$150

Answer: A \$212

Why: She counted two hundred and twelve. The text says: "On the day she counted two hundred and twelve, she was so excited that she took the long way home just to pass the window."

5. Which statement is stated directly rather than inferred?

- A** Priya feels guilty about the telescope **B** Amy is hungry **C** The telescope cost \$240
D Priya delays her goal of buying the telescope

Answer: C The telescope cost \$240

Why: Only the price is stated word for word. The text says: "The telescope in the shop window cost two hundred and forty dollars."

6. Which quotation is the strongest evidence that Priya acted generously despite a cost?

- A** Priya stood on the sidewalk for a long time **B** Priya had kept an envelope inside her math textbook
C She left the bag on a table by the church door

Answer: C She left the bag on a table by the church door

Why: Giving the food is the act that shows generosity. The text says: "Without looking at Amy, she left the bag on a table by the church door."

The Last Practice

Marcus arrived at practice twenty minutes early, which was unusual, because he normally arrived late and laughing. Today he laced his shoes in the empty gym without a word. When Coach Ames walked in, Marcus stood up too quickly and winced, then covered it by tying his shoe again.

"Ready to run?" Coach asked.

"Always," Marcus said. He ran the first drill at full speed. On the second, he stopped at the baseline and bent over, hands on his knees, counting under his breath as if he were only catching his breath.

Coach watched from the sideline. He did not mention that Marcus had skipped the pizza after the last game, which he never did. He blew the whistle. "Water break," he said, a minute earlier than planned.

Later, Marcus's sister opened the freezer and found an ice pack in the spot where the ice cream belonged, its blue wrapping soft with melting.

7. What does Marcus say when Coach asks if he is ready to run?

- A** Not today **B** Always **C** Maybe later

Answer: B Always

Why: Marcus answers with one word. The text says: "Always," Marcus said.

The New Student

On Wen's first day at Alder Middle School, the cafeteria went quiet when she walked in, or perhaps it only felt that way. She carried her tray past three full tables before a boy at the end of a fourth looked up. "There's room," he said, and slid his backpack off the bench.

His name was Jonah, and he talked about everything: the lunch menu, the history quiz, the vending machine that took your dollar and gave nothing back. Wen answered in single words. She had learned, at her last two schools, not to say too much too soon.

On Friday, Jonah left a folded paper on her desk. It was a hand-drawn map of the school, marked with the shortcuts, the teachers who gave extra time and the one bathroom with a working lock. At the bottom he had written, I got lost for a month.

Wen read it twice. At lunch, she sat beside him without being invited, and for the first time that week, she spoke in a complete sentence.

8. Why does Wen answer in single words?

- A** She dislikes Jonah and wants him to leave her alone **B** She is cautious because of her past schools
C She is sick

Answer: **B** She is cautious because of her past schools

Why: Her past experience made her careful. The text says: "She had learned, at her last two schools, not to say too much too soon."

Start with Tuesday

Tomas had practiced his opening statement in front of the bathroom mirror forty times. Standing at the podium in the auditorium, he looked out at the judges, the rows of parents and, in the third row, the empty chair where his father had promised to sit. His notes shook in his hands. The first sentence he had memorized vanished.

Across the stage, his rival Elise watched him. She had beaten him in the regional round and had told everyone she would do it again. She cleared her throat loudly, then tapped her own notecard twice. Then she mouthed three words: Start with Tuesday.

Tuesday was the day of his best example, the broken crosswalk light that had started his whole argument. He took a breath. "Last Tuesday," he began, "my neighbor crossed the street ..." and the rest came back, one sentence at a time.

Afterward, Elise packed her bag without a word. "Thanks," Tomas said. She shrugged, but she did not walk away at once.

9. What details show why Tomas froze?

- A** His notes shook and the first sentence vanished **B** He had not practiced
C He loved the audience and wanted to stay longer

Answer: A His notes shook and the first sentence vanished

Why: The text describes nervousness. The text says: "The first sentence he had memorized vanished."

10. Which detail is the strongest evidence that Elise was helping rather than distracting?

- A** She told everyone she would win **B** She tapped her notecard twice **C** She cleared her throat loudly
D She mouthed 'Start with Tuesday'

Answer: D She mouthed 'Start with Tuesday'

Why: Those words gave Tomas what he needed. The text says: "Then she mouthed three words: Start with Tuesday."

④ You Try: 10 questions

Now your student works alone. Check answers in the Answer Key at the end of this topic. Score: ____ / 10

Night Shift

Dev's mother worked nights at the hospital, so the apartment was always quiet when he woke up. The note on the refrigerator was there every morning: a smiley face, a reminder about his lunch, and the word Love, underlined once. Dev never wrote back. He thought notes were for people who were bad at talking.

On the morning of his twelfth birthday, there was no note. Dev stood in front of the refrigerator and felt something drop in his stomach. Then he noticed a cake box on the counter, and under it a note longer than any she had ever written, a full page covered edge to edge. He read it standing up. He read it again at the table.

Before school, he found a pen. Under his mother's smiley face, in handwriting that slanted uphill, he wrote Love, too, and underlined it twice. He left the page on the kitchen table and ran to catch the bus, smiling the whole way.

1. How did Dev feel when he saw no note on his birthday?

- A** He felt angry at his mother **B** Something dropped in his stomach **C** He felt relieved that no note was there
D He felt sleepy

Grandmother's Recipe

Every Sunday, Lena's grandmother made dumplings from a recipe she had never written down. Lena had watched her a hundred times, but today Grandmother stood at the counter holding a bag of flour and looking at it as though she had forgotten its name.

"The water," Grandmother said finally. "How much water?"

"A little at a time," Lena said gently. "You always say, until it feels like an earlobe."

Grandmother laughed, but the laugh was thin. She pressed a thumb into the dough, then held the thumb up to the light as if the answer might be written on it.

That night, Lena took a notebook from her backpack. At the top of a clean page she wrote Grandmother's Dumplings, and under it, in careful capitals, UNTIL IT FEELS LIKE AN EARLOBE. She did not tell her grandmother what she was doing. Each Sunday afterward, she stood a little closer to the counter, and she wrote down everything she saw.

2. Where does Lena get the notebook?

- A** From her grandmother **B** From a store **C** From her backpack **D** From the kitchen drawer

3. What does 'the laugh was thin' suggest?
- A** Grandmother's laugh covers a worry she does not want to show **B** Grandmother is angry
C Grandmother is truly amused by Lena's reminder about the dough **D** Grandmother is sleepy
4. Why might the author end with 'she wrote down everything she saw' instead of describing Lena's feelings?
- A** Feelings are not important **B** Her actions let readers infer her love without being told
C The author did not know her feelings, so they were left out of the story

Start with Tuesday

Tomas had practiced his opening statement in front of the bathroom mirror forty times. Standing at the podium in the auditorium, he looked out at the judges, the rows of parents and, in the third row, the empty chair where his father had promised to sit. His notes shook in his hands. The first sentence he had memorized vanished.

Across the stage, his rival Elise watched him. She had beaten him in the regional round and had told everyone she would do it again. She cleared her throat loudly, then tapped her own notecard twice. Then she mouthed three words: Start with Tuesday.

Tuesday was the day of his best example, the broken crosswalk light that had started his whole argument. He took a breath. "Last Tuesday," he began, "my neighbor crossed the street ..." and the rest came back, one sentence at a time.

Afterward, Elise packed her bag without a word. "Thanks," Tomas said. She shrugged, but she did not walk away at once.

5. How many times had Tomas practiced his opening?
- A** Forty **B** Four hundred **C** Four **D** Fourteen

The Last Practice

Marcus arrived at practice twenty minutes early, which was unusual, because he normally arrived late and laughing. Today he laced his shoes in the empty gym without a word. When Coach Ames walked in, Marcus stood up too quickly and winced, then covered it by tying his shoe again.

"Ready to run?" Coach asked.

"Always," Marcus said. He ran the first drill at full speed. On the second, he stopped at the baseline and bent over, hands on his knees, counting under his breath as if he were only catching his breath.

Coach watched from the sideline. He did not mention that Marcus had skipped the pizza after the last game, which he never did. He blew the whistle. "Water break," he said, a minute earlier than planned.

Later, Marcus's sister opened the freezer and found an ice pack in the spot where the ice cream belonged, its blue wrapping soft with melting.

6. Which detail best shows that Marcus is pretending nothing is wrong?

- A** He ran the first drill at full speed **B** He counted under his breath as if he were only catching his breath
C He laced his shoes in the empty gym without saying a word to anyone **D** He arrived twenty minutes early

The New Student

On Wen's first day at Alder Middle School, the cafeteria went quiet when she walked in, or perhaps it only felt that way. She carried her tray past three full tables before a boy at the end of a fourth looked up. "There's room," he said, and slid his backpack off the bench.

His name was Jonah, and he talked about everything: the lunch menu, the history quiz, the vending machine that took your dollar and gave nothing back. Wen answered in single words. She had learned, at her last two schools, not to say too much too soon.

On Friday, Jonah left a folded paper on her desk. It was a hand-drawn map of the school, marked with the shortcuts, the teachers who gave extra time and the one bathroom with a working lock. At the bottom he had written, I got lost for a month.

Wen read it twice. At lunch, she sat beside him without being invited, and for the first time that week, she spoke in a complete sentence.

7. Which statement is stated directly rather than inferred?

- A** Wen read the map twice **B** Wen is touched by the map **C** Wen is beginning to trust Jonah

8. Which claim about Jonah is supported by the strongest evidence?

- A** He is careless, as shown by the broken vending machine and his lost dollar
B He is kind, as shown by making room and then drawing a map **C** He is bored, as shown by the history quiz
D He is shy, as shown by his long talks at lunch

Pruning Season

On the first day of pruning, Ines's grandfather handed her a pair of shears older than her mother. "Cut above a bud that faces outward," he said, "so the branch grows away from the center." He demonstrated, and the cut was so clean it looked polished.

Ines was fast but not careful. By noon, she had cut sixteen branches, and her grandfather had quietly re-cut nine. He never said anything. He just stood behind her, and followed her to the next tree.

At lunch, a stranger with a clipboard came through the gate. Her grandfather walked him slowly down the rows, nodding, pointing at the oldest trees. When the man left, he put a card on the porch rail. Her grandfather turned it face down.

That afternoon, Ines slowed down. She found the buds first, and then she cut. By evening, her grandfather had stopped re-cutting. He rested one hand on the trunk of the last tree. "Sixty years," he said. "I wanted someone who would stay to see it." Ines did not answer, but she picked up the shears.

9. Which quotation best supports the idea that the grandfather hopes Ines will take over?

- A** 'Cut above a bud that faces outward, so the branch grows away from the center.' **B** 'He never said anything.'
C 'I wanted someone who would stay to see it.' **D** 'He demonstrated.'

The Fence

The fence between the Okafors' yard and Mr. Hale's had been leaning for two summers. Mr. Hale grumbled about it every time he saw them. The Okafors grumbled back about his unmowed grass. They had not spoken a friendly word in a year.

One October evening, Ms. Okafor looked out the window and saw Mr. Hale on his knees at the base of the fence, holding a level up to a post. He worked until dark. The next morning the fence stood straight, and a small paper bag hung from one post, as if left for her to find. Inside were six apples from his tree.

She did not know what to say. She put the bag on the counter and stared at it. Then, that afternoon, she carried a pie to his gate, an apple pie, because she had no better idea, and knocked once. He opened the door slowly. He looked at the pie.

"I've never been good at this," he said.

"Neither have I," she said.

10. Which detail is the weakest evidence that the neighbors are reconciling?

- A** The fence stood straight the next morning **B** She brought a pie
C The Okafors grumbled back about his unmowed grass **D** He left apples

Choosing the strongest evidence: Answers and explanations

① Quick Check

- The Fence* · What was in the paper bag?

C Six apples

The text says: "Inside were six apples from his tree."
- The Fence* · A student says the pie is a payment for the apples. What is the flaw?

B The text shows she had no better idea and was answering a kindness with one of her own

The context shows an exchange of kindness, not payment. The text says: "because she had no better idea."
- Start with Tuesday* · What was Tuesday?

B The day of Tomas's best example

The third paragraph explains. The text says: "Tuesday was the day of his best example."
- Start with Tuesday* · What three words did Elise mouth?

C Start with Tuesday

The text says: "Then she mouthed three words: Start with Tuesday."
- Start with Tuesday* · Which detail suggests that something besides the contest is troubling Tomas?

A The empty chair where his father had promised to sit

The chair suggests that his father did not come. The text says: "the empty chair where his father had promised to sit."
- Night Shift* · What was under the cake box?

A A long note

The text says: "Then he noticed a cake box on the counter, and under it a note longer than any she had ever written."
- Night Shift* · What does Dev's reply suggest about him by the end?

C He is ready to show affection in writing

He writes back, which he never did before. The text says: "he wrote Love, too, and underlined it twice."
- Night Shift* · Why is 'underlined it twice' significant?

C His mother underlined Love once, so he answers with even more emphasis

The comparison with 'once' shows stronger feeling. The text says: "underlined once."
- The Telescope* · Which detail best shows how much Priya wanted the telescope?

D She took the long way home just to pass the window

Taking a longer route shows eagerness. The text says: "she was so excited that she took the long way home just to pass the window."
- The Last Practice* · Which pair of quotations most convincingly supports the idea that Marcus is injured and hiding it?

C 'winced, then covered it' and 'found an ice pack'

The first pair shows both the hiding and a sign of treatment.

④ You Try

- Night Shift* · How did Dev feel when he saw no note on his birthday?

B Something dropped in his stomach

The passage uses this image. The text says: "Dev stood in front of the refrigerator and felt something drop in his stomach."

2. *Grandmother's Recipe* · Where does Lena get the notebook?
C From her backpack
The text says: "That night, Lena took a notebook from her backpack."
3. *Grandmother's Recipe* · What does 'the laugh was thin' suggest?
A Grandmother's laugh covers a worry she does not want to show
A thin laugh is weak and covers something else. The text says: "Grandmother laughed, but the laugh was thin."
4. *Grandmother's Recipe* · Why might the author end with 'she wrote down everything she saw' instead of describing Lena's feelings?
B Her actions let readers infer her love without being told
Showing action supports inference. The text says: "and she wrote down everything she saw."
5. *Start with Tuesday* · How many times had Tomas practiced his opening?
A Forty
The text says: "Tomas had practiced his opening statement in front of the bathroom mirror forty times."
6. *The Last Practice* · Which detail best shows that Marcus is pretending nothing is wrong?
B He counted under his breath as if he were only catching his breath
'As if' signals an act, since the real reason was something else.
7. *The New Student* · Which statement is stated directly rather than inferred?
A Wen read the map twice
Only this statement is stated plainly. The text says: "Wen read it twice."
8. *The New Student* · Which claim about Jonah is supported by the strongest evidence?
B He is kind, as shown by making room and then drawing a map
His actions directly show kindness: he makes room for her, then draws her a map.
9. *Pruning Season* · Which quotation best supports the idea that the grandfather hopes Ines will take over?
C 'I wanted someone who would stay to see it.'
His words directly state the hope. The text says: "I wanted someone who would stay to see it."
10. *The Fence* · Which detail is the weakest evidence that the neighbors are reconciling?
C The Okafors grumbled back about his unmowed grass
The grumbling belongs to the earlier conflict, so it shows no reconciling. The text says: "The Okafors grumbled back about his unmowed grass."

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