



Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Grade 10

Name: _____

Date: _____

Remarks to the Graduating Class: Choosing What We Carry Forward

Members of the graduating class, families, and friends: four years ago, most of you walked through these doors as strangers to one another, carrying backpacks heavier than you expected and futures you could not yet picture clearly. Tonight, you walk out carrying something different, and I want to talk with you honestly about what that something actually is.

It is easy, on a night like this, to talk only about achievement: the grades earned, the awards collected, the acceptance letters opened with shaking hands. Those things matter, and you should be proud of them. But if achievement were the only thing worth carrying forward, I would not be standing here tonight. I would simply hand you your diplomas and let you go. Instead, I want to ask you a harder question: what will you do with what you have learned, once no one is grading you for it anymore?

Consider Elena Ruiz, a member of this very class, who spent her Saturday mornings for three years tutoring elementary students who were struggling to read, not because a teacher required it, not because a college application demanded it, but because she believed every child deserved someone in their corner. No test measured that choice. No transcript reflects the hours she gave. And yet I would argue that what Elena built in those Saturday mornings matters more than any single grade she ever earned.

So I will leave you with this. Somewhere in the next four years, in the next forty years, you will face a moment when doing the right thing costs you something: time, comfort, popularity, or ease. In that moment, I hope you remember that character is not built in the grand, dramatic moments life occasionally offers us. It is built in the ordinary Saturday mornings, when no one is watching and no one will ever know, except you. That is what I hope you carry forward tonight, more than any diploma, more than any grade.

Congratulations, graduates. Go build something worth being proud of.

Circle the Correct Answer

1. What does the speaker argue matters more than achievement alone?

- a) Financial success after graduation
- b) What graduates do with their knowledge once no one is grading them
- c) Winning academic awards

2. Who does the speaker use as a specific example, and why?

- a) A famous historical figure known for generosity
- b) Elena Ruiz, a classmate who tutored children without being required to
- c) A teacher who inspired the speaker personally

3. According to the speech, where is character actually built?

- a) In dramatic, highly visible moments
- b) In ordinary moments when no one is watching
- c) Only through formal awards and recognition

4. What is the speaker's final piece of advice to the graduates?

- a) To focus entirely on future academic success
- b) To remember character is tested in small, unwatched moments, and to build something worth being proud of
- c) To avoid taking any personal risks after graduation

True or False

5. The speaker claims achievement is the only thing worth celebrating. _____

6. Elena Ruiz tutored students because a college application required it. _____

7. The speech ends by encouraging graduates to build something worth being proud of. _____

Fill in the Blank

8. The speaker says character is built in the ordinary Saturday _____, when no one is watching.

9. The speaker says achievement matters, but asks a _____ question about what graduates will do with what they learned.

Think and Explain

10. Identify one rhetorical strategy the speaker uses to connect with the audience (for example, a rhetorical question, a specific anecdote, or repetition) and explain how it strengthens the speech's message.

11. What is the central claim of this speech, and how does the speaker support it? Evaluate whether the evidence used is persuasive, and explain your reasoning.
