



Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Grade 8

Name: _____

Date: _____

The Right Thing

Characters: Noah, Ella

Setting: An empty classroom after school. NOAH sits at a desk, staring at his phone. His friend ELLA enters, backpack still on.

ELLA:

You texted me eleven times in a row. What's going on?

NOAH:

I saw something during the history test today. I don't know what to do about it.

ELLA sits down slowly, sensing this is serious.

ELLA:

Okay. What did you see?

NOAH:

Marcus had answers written on his water bottle label. I could see it clearly from where I was sitting. I don't think anyone else noticed.

ELLA:

Marcus? That doesn't even sound like him. Are you sure that's what you saw?

NOAH:

I'm sure. And the worst part is, I know why he did it. His parents have been fighting about his grades for weeks. He told me himself he was scared of failing this class.

ELLA leans back, clearly torn.

ELLA:

So what, you're supposed to just stay quiet because you feel bad for him? That's not really fair to everyone who studied the honest way.

NOAH:

I know that. But if I report it, he could get suspended, maybe worse. And I keep thinking about how scared he sounded when he told me about his parents.

ELLA:

I get that. I do. But imagine if it was the other way around, and somebody saw you cheating and stayed quiet because they liked you. Would that actually be doing you a favor?

NOAH is quiet for a long moment, turning his phone over in his hands.

NOAH:

No. I guess it wouldn't be. It would just be letting me avoid dealing with something I actually needed help with.

ELLA:

Right. Maybe the actual right thing isn't just reporting him and walking away. Maybe it's talking to him first, telling him you saw it, and that you think he needs to tell somebody himself, before it becomes a bigger problem.

NOAH:

That's harder than either staying quiet or reporting him behind his back.

ELLA:

Most of the actual right things are harder than the easy options, Noah. That's usually how you know.

Circle the Correct Answer

1. What does Noah witness during the history test?

- a) Marcus cheating using answers written on a water bottle label
- b) A fight between two students
- c) A teacher making a mistake grading tests

2. Why does Noah hesitate to report what he saw?

- a) He is not sure it actually happened
- b) He knows Marcus is scared and stressed about his parents fighting over his grades
- c) He is afraid of getting in trouble himself

3. What argument does Ella use to challenge Noah's hesitation?

- a) She asks him to imagine if someone stayed quiet about his own cheating out of misplaced kindness
- b) She threatens to report it herself if he doesn't
- c) She says Marcus deserves to be punished harshly

4. What solution do Noah and Ella arrive at by the end of the scene?

- a) Reporting Marcus immediately without talking to him
- b) Staying completely silent and doing nothing
- c) Talking to Marcus directly first and encouraging him to come forward himself

True or False

5. Noah is completely certain about what he saw during the test. _____

6. Ella immediately agrees that Noah should stay quiet out of sympathy for Marcus. _____

7. By the end of the scene, Noah and Ella agree that talking to Marcus directly is harder than either staying silent or reporting him secretly. _____

Fill in the Blank

8. Ella says staying quiet would just be letting Noah avoid dealing with something he actually needed _____ with.

9. Ella says most of the actual right things are _____ than the easy options.

Think and Explain

10. Noah faces a genuine moral dilemma in this scene, one where there is no clearly easy or obviously correct choice. Explain what makes this decision difficult for Noah, using specific details from the dialogue.

11. Ella's argument, using a hypothetical ("imagine if it was the other way around"), changes Noah's thinking. Explain how this technique works, and why it might be more persuasive than simply telling Noah he is wrong.
