



Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Grade 9

Name: _____

Date: _____

The Interview

Characters: Mr. Fenwick, Devon

Setting: A small, cluttered back office at Fenwick's Hardware, a store that has just quietly signed papers to close within the month, though this has not been announced publicly. MR. FENWICK, the owner, interviews DEVON, a nervous seventeen-year-old applying for a summer position. The audience, unlike Devon, has just seen the closing papers on Fenwick's desk.

MR. FENWICK:

So, Devon, tell me why you want to work here this summer.

DEVON:

Honestly, sir, I've been saving up for a car, and I figured a steady summer job would really help. I was hoping this could turn into something long-term, maybe even after school starts back up.

FENWICK shifts uncomfortably and glances at a drawer where the papers are hidden.

MR. FENWICK:

Long-term. Right. Well, summer positions here can be... unpredictable. Retail is a strange business these days.

DEVON:

I understand things change, but I'm a hard worker. My last boss said I was the most reliable person on his whole crew.

FENWICK smiles, but it doesn't quite reach his eyes.

MR. FENWICK:

That's good to hear. Reliability matters. Though I'll say, if I were your age, I might think carefully about where I put my long-term hopes. Businesses like mine, we're at the mercy of a lot of things outside our control.

DEVON:

Sure, but every job has some risk, right? I'd still love the chance to prove myself here.

FENWICK pauses for a long moment, staring at the drawer.

MR. FENWICK:

You remind me of myself at your age. Eager. Certain the ground under your feet would always hold.

DEVON:

Is... everything okay, Mr. Fenwick? You seem a little distracted.

MR. FENWICK:

Fine, fine. Just thinking about the future. Tell you what, Devon. Come back Monday. We'll get you started, and we'll figure out the rest as it comes.

DEVON smiles broadly and shakes Fenwick's hand, unaware of what waits in the drawer beside them.

DEVON:

Thank you so much, Mr. Fenwick. You won't regret this. I'll see you Monday!

Circle the Correct Answer

1. What does the audience know at the start of the scene that Devon does not?

- a) That the store has just signed papers to close within the month
- b) That Devon is not actually qualified for the job
- c) That Fenwick plans to fire Devon immediately

2. Why does Devon want the job, according to the dialogue?

- a) To save up for a car and possibly find long-term work
- b) To take over the store one day
- c) He does not actually want the job at all

3. How does Fenwick behave differently from what he is actually thinking?

- a) He speaks vaguely about uncertainty while avoiding telling Devon the store is closing
- b) He directly and honestly tells Devon the store is closing
- c) He refuses to interview Devon at all

4. How does the scene end?

- a) Fenwick tells Devon the truth about the closure
- b) Fenwick hires Devon to start Monday, without revealing the closure
- c) Devon withdraws his application

True or False

5. Devon knows about the store's closing papers from the beginning of the scene.

6. Fenwick directly tells Devon the store is closing. _____

7. The audience has more information than Devon throughout the scene.

Fill in the Blank

8. Fenwick says retail is a _____ business these days.

9. Fenwick says Devon reminds him of himself, eager and certain the _____ under his feet would always hold.

Think and Explain

10. This scene relies on dramatic irony, when the audience knows something a character does not. Explain how this dramatic irony changes the way a reader or viewer experiences Fenwick's vague, hesitant lines, compared to how Devon experiences them.

11. What does Fenwick's dialogue reveal about his internal conflict, even though he never states his feelings directly? Use specific lines as evidence.
