

Read the passage “Singing Out” before answering Numbers 1 through 5.

Singing Out

Nina Martinez shut the classroom door. She trudged down the hall. There was a reason why Nina felt nervous this morning. She was trying out for the talent show. She loved to sing, but she disliked singing in front of other people. “Why am I doing this?” Nina thought.

Taking a deep breath, she pushed open the door of the auditorium and went inside. The theater was filled with laughing children. Nina saw her friends Luz and James. A few teachers sat on folding chairs. Seeing Mrs. Brent, her music teacher, made Nina even more nervous. There was the cold, bare stage.

“Hi, Nina!” Luz called out. “I didn’t think you would try out. You are usually so shy.”

“That’s nonsense,” Nina said. “I’m not shy at all.”

Luz laughed, “Yeah, right.” Then she chuckled as she ran off to find a seat. Nina followed, dragging her feet. She wished she were sitting quietly at her desk. What mess had she gotten herself into?



One by one the students got up on the stage. They sang or played an instrument. Nina was amazed at how confident her classmates seemed.

“Nina Martinez!” called out Mrs. Brent. Nina jumped from her chair when she heard Mrs. Brent announce her name. Nina felt small as she walked to the empty stage. It was huge! Her face was hot. Her hands were shaking. She fumbled with the sheet music of her favorite song. She tried to sing, but the words would not come out.

“I-I-” Nina began, and then stopped. “I can’t,” she said softly.

“Close your eyes and pretend you are alone,” said Mrs. Brent gently.

“Forget about everyone else and just sing for yourself.”

Nina felt silly, but she gave it a try. She shut her eyes and sang out. To Nina’s surprise, her hands stopped shaking and the song poured out.

Nina heard Mrs. Brent applaud loudly at the end of her song. “That’s the first time I have actually heard your voice,” she said. “You have such a beautiful voice. You are in the show!”

Nina let out a big sigh and smiled happily. Singing in front of people wasn’t so bad, after all.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Now answer Numbers 1 through 5. Base your answers on “Singing Out.”

- 1** This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A: Read the sentences from the passage.

Taking a deep breath, she pushed open the door of the auditorium and went inside. The theater was filled with laughing children.

What is an auditorium?

- ☐ Ⓐ a music teacher
- ☐ Ⓑ a friendly person
- ☐ Ⓒ a big place to perform
- ☐ Ⓓ a small room in a house

Part B: Which word from the sentence helps you know what auditorium means?

- ☐ Ⓐ breath
- ☐ Ⓑ open
- ☐ Ⓒ theater
- ☐ Ⓓ laughing

- 2** This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A: Why does Nina feel nervous?

- ☐ (A) She does not know Mrs. Brent.
- ☐ (B) She cannot remember her song.
- ☐ (C) She cannot see the words to her song.
- ☐ (D) She does not like to sing in front of people.

Part B: Which sentence from the passage tells why Nina feels nervous?

- ☐ (A) "She loved to sing, but she disliked singing in front of other people."
- ☐ (B) "Nina jumped from her chair when she heard Mrs. Brent announce her name."
- ☐ (C) "She fumbled with the sheet music of her favorite song."
- ☐ (D) "She tried to sing, but the words would not come out."

- 3** Read the sentences from the passage.

Luz laughed, "Yeah, right." Then she chuckled as she ran off to find a seat.

Which word in the sentences means almost the **same** as chuckled?

- ☐ (A) laughed
- ☐ (B) ran
- ☐ (C) find
- ☐ (D) seat

4 Mrs. Brent tells Nina to just sing for herself. What does this show about Mrs. Brent?

- ☐ **A** She knows that Nina sings well.
- ☐ **B** She knows that Nina is nervous.
- ☐ **C** She does not think Nina will be in the show.
- ☐ **D** She does not think Nina remembers the song.

5 Underline **one** sentence that shows how Nina feels at the end of the passage.

Nina heard Mrs. Brent applaud loudly at the end of her song. "That's the first time I have actually heard your voice," she said. "You have such a beautiful voice. You are in the show!"

Nina let out a big sigh and smiled happily. Singing in front of people wasn't so bad, after all.

Read the passage “New Kid in School” before answering Numbers 6 through 10.

New Kid in School

Jayden watched the kids play. Some were swinging. Some were sliding. Others were kicking an old soccer ball around. It was his third day at his new school. It was his third recess standing alone. He wished someone would ask him to swing, slide, or play soccer, but no one did. After school, Jayden walked home. Some shouting and laughing caught his attention.

“Over here!” someone shouted. “Kick it! Kick it to me!” someone hollered. They were some kids playing soccer. Jayden recognized several of his classmates. He paused a few minutes to observe them. He was hoping they would invite him to join their game. But no one did.

Jayden missed his old school and his old friends. “Why did we have to move?” he muttered to himself and whispered under his breath. “I don’t have any friends here. I’ll never have any friends here. Back home, I had Shawn, Jorge, and Nora. Back home, I—” Jayden caught himself. This was his home now, whether he liked it or not.

When he reached his house, it appeared empty. “Mom?” he called out. Then he noticed a note. It read: “Barry and I are across the street at our neighbor’s house. Come on over.”

Jayden walked across the street. He saw his mother talking with a woman. His three-year-old brother Barry and a little girl were playing in a sandbox.

“Hi! How was school today?” his mother called.

“Okay,” Jayden replied.

“These are our neighbors, Mrs. Ori and Ava.”

Just then, Ava grabbed the toy car at Barry’s feet.

“Uh-oh,” Jayden thought. “Look out!”

The car was Barry's favorite toy, and if anybody else touched it, he would wail and cry and kick, but the wail and the kicks didn't happen. Instead, Barry watched Ava roll the car through the sand. Then he picked up a toy truck and did the same.

That night, Jayden did some thinking. "Maybe I've been going at this all wrong. I've been waiting for people to make friends with me. Maybe I should try to make friends with them," he said to himself. The next day, he approached Tyler, one of the soccer players he'd seen the day before.

"Hi," Jayden smiled. "I got this new soccer ball for my birthday. Do you want to use it instead of that old mushy one?"

"Sure!" Tyler answered.

"Do you want to be on my side? What position do you play?"

Out loud, Jayden said, "I play forward." To himself, he said, "Whoever thought I could learn something from my three-year-old brother?"



Now answer Numbers 6 through 10. Base your answers on “New Kid in School.”

- 6** Circle the sentence that tells how Jayden feels about moving to a new home.

“Jayden recognized several of his classmates.”

“He was hoping they would invite him to join their game.”

“He paused a few minutes to observe them.”

“Jayden missed his old school and his old friends.”

- 7** This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A: Read the sentence from the passage.

“Why did we have to move?” he muttered to himself and whispered under his breath.

What does muttered mean?

- (A)** told as a joke
- (B)** shouted loudly
- (C)** thought quietly
- (D)** said in a low voice

Part B: Which word from the sentence means almost the **same** as muttered?

- (A)** have
- (B)** move
- (C)** whispered
- (D)** under

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- 8** Read the sentence from the passage.

The car was Barry's favorite toy, and if anybody else touched it, he would wail and cry and kick, but the wail and the kicks didn't happen.

Which word in the sentence helps you know what wail means?

- ☐ (A) favorite
 - ☐ (B) anybody
 - ☐ (C) touched
 - ☐ (D) cry
- 9** What does Jayden think after he watches his brother play with Ava?
- ☐ (A) His neighbors are very nice.
 - ☐ (B) He should try to make friends.
 - ☐ (C) His family should not have moved.
 - ☐ (D) He should be kinder to his brother.

- 10** This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A: How does Jayden feel at the end of the passage?

- ☐ (A) happy
- ☐ (B) shy
- ☐ (C) surprised
- ☐ (D) upset

Part B: Which sentence tells how Jayden feels at the end of the passage?

- ☐ (A) "He wished someone would ask him to swing, slide, or play soccer, but no one did."
- ☐ (B) "'I'll never have any friends here.'"
- ☐ (C) "This was his home now, whether he liked it or not."
- ☐ (D) "To himself, he said, 'Whoever thought I could learn something from my three-year-old brother?'"

