

Name: _____

Date: _____

Reading Comprehension: Seven Chairs

Grade 5 | Reading an original story to analyze characters, vocabulary and theme

Read the story. Then answer the questions on the next page.

Seven Chairs

The sign-up sheet for the Westbrook Chess Club had seven lines, and only four of them were filled. Ms. Okafor tapped the paper thoughtfully. "The regional tournament requires a team of six," she said. "We have two weeks."

Priya, the club's best player, shrugged. "Most kids think chess is boring. We can't change that." But Jonah, who had joined only a month earlier, was already thinking. He remembered how confused he had felt at his first meeting, staring at pieces that all seemed to move in mysterious ways.

"Maybe they don't think it's boring," Jonah said slowly. "Maybe they think it's hard. What if we taught them one piece at a time?"

The next Monday, Jonah and Priya set up a table in the cafeteria with a sign that read Learn the Knight in Five Minutes. Priya was skeptical at first, but she was a patient teacher, and she was surprised by how much she enjoyed explaining the knight's unusual L-shaped jump. By Friday, eleven students had stopped by, and three of them asked when the club met.

On the day of the tournament, the Westbrook team had exactly six players. They did not win the trophy; they finished in the middle of the standings. But on the bus ride home, Priya looked at the newest members laughing and replaying their games, and she realized that the club felt different. It had become a place where everyone was welcome to start as a beginner.

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Circle the best answer. Look back at the story to find proof.

1. Why does the club need more members?

- a) The club room is too small.
- b) The tournament requires a team of six.
- c) Ms. Okafor is leaving.
- d) Priya wants to quit.

2. How are Priya's and Jonah's first reactions to the problem different?

- a) Priya thinks nothing can change; Jonah starts looking for a solution.
- b) Both of them want to cancel the club.
- c) Jonah is worried; Priya makes a plan.
- d) Both think chess is boring.

3. In paragraph 4, the word "skeptical" most nearly means:

- a) excited
- b) doubtful
- c) tired
- d) angry

4. What happened right after the cafeteria table was set up?

- a) The team won a trophy.
- b) Eleven students stopped by during the week.
- c) Ms. Okafor canceled the tournament.
- d) Jonah quit the club.

5. What is a theme of this story? Support your answer with a detail from the text.
