

Practice 2

Part A:

2A. What is the main idea of the story?

- A. Carly loves Valentine's Day.
- B. Danielle doesn't like Valentine's Day.
- C. Danielle makes a Valentine's Day card for Carly.
- D. Danielle pulls a prank on Carly.

Part B:

2B. Choose two details that support the main idea.

- A. "That night, Danielle snipped, glued, and drew to make the best Valentine's Day card ever."
- B. "She went home and went up to her bedroom to be by herself."
- C. "She was never a fan of Valentine's Day."
- D. "The next day, Danielle gave Carly the Valentine's Day card."

Tip: The **main idea** is what the story is mostly about. Focus on the big picture rather than small details. Which option tells someone what the story is about without giving away minor details?

For Part B, you have to find the *supporting details*. These details tell you more about the main idea, so they have to relate to the main idea. It will be a detail that is similar to the main idea. It will not be a detail that has nothing to do with the main idea. Which two details relate to the main idea?

Practice 3

Part A:

3A. The following sentence is from the story. "Danielle *sulked* around her room." What does the word *sulked* mean in the sentence?

- A. to cry out of happiness
- B. to be silent out of sadness
- C. to leave something behind
- D. to wail

Part B:

3B. Which details supports your answer to Part A?

- A. "She was proud to make something that was going to make her friend so happy."
- B. "She didn't give Danielle a card."
- C. "It was the worst day ever."
- D. "She wanted to be alone and did not talk to anyone because she was sad."

Tip: To help figure out the definition of a word, look for **context clues**. Find the paragraph that contains the difficult word. Read the entire paragraph. Sentences around the word usually give away the meaning of the sentence. Read the following paragraph for an example.

Cinderella had soot all over her face. How could she go to the ball looking like this? She was so dirty. She would never have time to clean up for the ball!

Let's try to figure out the definition of *soot*. It has to be a thing because she has it on her face. The rest of the paragraph discusses how dirty she is, so we can safely guess that "soot" means "dirt."

Tip: After you have finished reading the story, you will be expected to write a narrative using information from the passage. You will take on the perspective of a certain character and write about the events in the story in a narrative format. You may be asked to finish a story, write a diary entry from a character’s perspective, or write another version of the story. Below is an example prompt from “Cinderella.”

You have read the story “Cinderella.” Think about how the story would be different from the stepsisters’ perspective. Write a narrative retelling the story from the stepsister’s perspective.

Think about it! Before you start writing your story, think about the events in the story. What happened? How did Carly react to this? This will help you write Carly’s thoughts in your story.

Tip: It may be helpful to write down the events and how the character reacts before you write your narrative.

Example:

Event 1: Stepsisters and Cinderella are invited to the ball, but Cinderella can’t go.

Stepsisters’ reaction: Happy

Event 2: Cinderella shows up to the ball, but her stepsisters don’t know that it is her.

Stepsisters’ reaction: Confused, wondering

Event 3: Cinderella leaves her shoe at the ball, Prince discovers that it is hers and marries her.

Stepsisters’ reaction: Jealous

Practice 4-9: The next questions will focus on the following prompt:

You have read the story “The Valentine’s Day Gift.” Think about how the story would be different from Carly’s perspective. Write a narrative retelling the story from Carly’s perspective.

Practice 4-9: Write three events from the story and how Carly reacts to them (or how you think Carly would react to them). The tip to the bottom left may help you.

4. Event 1: _____

5. Carly’s reaction: _____

6. Event 2: _____

7. Carly’s reaction: _____

8. Event 3: _____

9. Carly’s reaction: _____

Tip: Now that you have finished brainstorming, you can write your narrative. Below is an example narrative using the Cinderella prompt.

Example Narrative:

This week has been an unbelievable week. On Sunday, we were invited to the ball by the Prince. Everyone, including Cinderella, was invited. We thought, "Cinderella can't go to the ball! That's just crazy!" Luckily, our mom said she couldn't go because she had to clean. HA! We were so happy about that. We don't like seeing Cinderella get her away.

So, later that day, we went to the ball. We had the most amazing outfits for the ball. We looked great! We were so excited to meet the Prince because he is looking for a wife. Imagine! That wife could be one of us! Everything was going spectacularly at the ball until a strange girl showed up. No one knew who she was because she was wearing a mask. The Prince paid a lot of attention to her. "Who was she?" "Where did she come from?" It was all a big mystery, but it ended up not mattering because she left early. We were happy to finally have the Prince to ourselves again.

No one will believe what happened the next day. The mysterious girl left a shoe, so the Prince asked all the girls at the ball to try on the shoe. He came to our house, and we thought we'd give it a shot because it might fit. Sadly, it didn't. Our feet were too big. Then, Cinderella asked to try on the shoe. We laughed. We said, "You weren't even at the ball!" But she insisted that she was, and the Prince insisted she tried it on.

This is the worst part: the shoe fit! She was the mysterious girl. Cinderella! The Prince proposed to her, and they are getting married. This is so unfair!

Practice 10-15: Write your narrative using the following prompt: You have read the story "The Valentine's Day Gift." Think about how the story would be different from Carly's perspective. Write a narrative retelling the story from Carly's perspective.
