

## UNIT THREE

### Chapters 5 and 6

#### COMPREHENSION SKILL QUESTIONS

##### Vocabulary in Context

1. In the following excerpt, what does the word *intact* mean?

Darrell was glad to find that most of the fruit was intact. Only six oranges were too crushed to keep.

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| a. rotten    | c. undamaged   |
| b. delicious | d. inexpensive |

2. In the following excerpt, what does the word *confront* mean?

The next morning, Darrell walked on the main street to Bluford. He knew Tyray would confront him, but at least it would happen when he expected it.

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| a. avoid  | c. ignore    |
| b. admire | d. challenge |

##### Supporting Details

3. The following words were said by

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| a. Mom.        | c. Uncle Jason.  |
| b. Mrs. Davis. | d. Mr. Mitchell. |

"That poor child is having a tough time in high school because he's so shy. He needs some friends to talk to. You seem like a nice boy. Would you look for Harold in school and try to make friends with him? I'd be so grateful."

4. The following words were said by

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|------------|------------------|
| a. Mom.    | c. Harold Davis. |
| b. Travis. | d. Tyray Hobbs.  |

"I don't think Darrell should have to share with anyone. Just look at how little he is. He needs to keep everything for himself."

##### Main Idea

5. The main idea of the excerpt below is that
- Amberlynn has a poor memory and doesn't recognize Darrell.
  - Darrell is upset that Amberlynn seems to be ignoring him.
  - Amberlynn sits only about five feet away from Darrell.

During algebra class, Darrell was sure Amberlynn looked right at him. He knew she did. She was only about five feet away. But then she looked away as if she had never seen him before. Didn't she remember standing in the line at the supermarket? Didn't she remember saying "we freshmen" as if they had a special bond? Clearly their conversation was not as important to her as it was to him.

6. The main idea of the excerpt below is that

- a. Amberlynn had a bad day at school.
- b. Amberlynn got two teachers mad because she didn't turn in homework.
- c. Amberlynn dirtied her shirt and was rejected by a guy she likes.

"So, Darrell, how was your first day at Bluford?" she asked warmly. "I've been here forever, and I had a miserable day. I got two teachers mad at me because I forgot something I was supposed to turn in today. I dropped spaghetti on my shirt at lunchtime, and this guy I like dissed me for this other girl. . . . So how about you?"

7. The main idea of the excerpt below is that

- a. Mom thinks that Uncle Jason seems good with his sons.
- b. Mom doesn't want to talk to Darrell about "man stuff."
- c. one of Mom's reasons for moving is so Darrell could have Uncle Jason around.

"Jason is another reason I moved us here. I think it is good to have a man around, and Jason has always wanted to be closer to you. Besides, he seems so good with his sons, I thought having him around might make it easier . . . especially if you ever wanted to talk to a man about man stuff."

8. The main idea of the excerpt below is that

- a. Darrell felt awful about himself for paying off a bully.
- b. Darrell had always been small and weak.
- c. Darrell had never before paid off a bully.

Darrell went on to school. He never felt worse about himself. He had always been picked on. But never in his life did he pay someone to leave him alone. Darrell wondered what Malik would say if he knew what he was doing.

**D. Conclusions**

9. You can conclude from the following excerpt that

- a. Darrell thinks that a piece of shoe accidentally fell into his food.
- b. Harold is glad that his food isn't as bad as Darrell's.
- c. Harold and Darrell are in agreement about how bad the food is.

"Man, what is this stuff?" he asked, picking up a hunk of the soggy meat. "It looks like a piece of my shoe."

Harold smiled. "Your shoe probably tastes better than this," he said, flicking a chunk of meat into a white glob of mashed potatoes.

10. You can conclude from the following excerpt that

- a. Tyray plans to crush Darrell's other groceries.
- b. Tyray is threatening to hurt Darrell.
- c. Tyray is sad that Darrell did not meet him as planned.

"There's the little punk that didn't show up this morning. You better have somethin' for me, or those oranges ain't going to be the only things that get crushed." Tyray's voice was loud, and other students turned to watch what was happening.

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### SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Contrast Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Dooling regarding how observant they are about student behavior. Which of the two is more aware of what's really happening in his class? Give examples.

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2. What is confusing about Amberlynn's behavior toward Darrell?

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3. What does Darrell tell his mother when she asks him how school is going? Why does he reply as he does?

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4. What happens to Darrell right after he buys oranges for his mother at the supermarket?

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5. Who does Darrell befriend at lunch? Why hasn't this person spoken to Darrell sooner?

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. In Chapter 6, we are told, "Darrell and his friends made it a rule never to bring adults into their problems, especially teachers." Do you think this "rule" should apply to Darrell's current situation? In general, do you agree that young people should avoid communicating with adults? Give examples of situations that do require adult involvement and ones that don't.
- 2. Everyone has come across people who, like Amberlynn, are kind to a specific person only when no one else is around. Have you ever been guilty of this? Either way, why do you think people behave this way? What is your opinion of people who do this?
- 3. Darrell has a dream that clearly reflects what's on his mind. How would you interpret Darrell's dream? In general, what is your opinion of the value of dreams?

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WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

- 1. Mr. Dooling, Darrell's gym teacher, believes that sports build strength and confidence. Write a paper in which you agree or disagree with this claim. Be sure to provide clear supporting points and examples to illustrate your position.
- 2. Darrell dreads going to gym class for a variety of reasons. Write about a particular class or subject at school that you really dislike. Be sure to discuss the various reasons why you don't enjoy that particular subject. At the end of your paper, discuss what could be done to improve your opinion of the class.
- 3. Darrell avoids telling his mother the truth about what's happening to him inside and outside of school. Write about a time when you lied to your parent(s) or guardian(s) because you didn't want them to worry about you. What did you lie about? How did you feel about lying at the time? Looking back, was this the right thing to do?

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