Year 3 reading comprehension: The New Girl

English · Reading comprehension
Level: Medium

Student: _____ Date: _____

Instructions
- Read the text first. There are 4 questions. Read each one carefully.
- Circle the best answer. Look back at the text to find the words that tell you.
- A grown-up can read the text aloud — that's fine.
- The answers are at the end. Check them together when you have finished.

Questions

Read this, then answer questions 1–4.

The New Girl

On her first day at Wattle Street School, Anika stood by the bubblers at lunch, holding her sandwich and watching the others play. Nobody asked her to join in.

Ben noticed her. He was in the middle of a game of handball, and he was winning. He looked at Anika, then at the long line waiting for a turn.

“Hey,” he called, “you can have my spot.” He walked off the court, and when the others groaned, he just shrugged.

Anika won three games in a row. Afterwards she found Ben and offered him half her sandwich.

1. Standing by the bubblers, Anika most likely feels

Circle one answer.

○ **A** happy to be on her own.
○ **B** bored of handball.
○ **C** lonely and left out.
○ **D** thirsty after playing handball.

2. Anika offers Ben half her sandwich mainly because

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** she won three games in a row.
- ○ **B** she wants him to play handball with her again.
- ○ **C** she doesn't like the sandwich.
- ○ **D** she wants to thank him for including her.

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3. Ben can best be described as

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** a boy who plays handball at lunch
- ○ **B** a bad loser
- ○ **C** kind, and willing to give something up for someone else
- ○ **D** a show-off who only cares about winning

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4. Which statement about Ben is best supported by the passage?

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** He gave up his spot because he was losing.
- ○ **B** He is rude, because he shrugs at the others.
- ○ **C** He does what he thinks is right, even when others don't like it.
- ○ **D** He is new at Wattle Street School.

Answer key

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1. C — lonely and left out.

It's her ‘first day’, she is ‘watching the others play’, and ‘Nobody asked her to join in’. She feels left out. She hasn't played yet, so she isn't thirsty from handball.

2. D — she wants to thank him for including her.

Ben gave her ‘my spot’. ‘Afterwards she found Ben’ on purpose to share her lunch. She is saying thank you. Winning is what happened, not why she shares.

3. C — kind, and willing to give something up for someone else

Ben ‘noticed her’, and even though ‘he was winning’ he said ‘you can have my spot’. He gave up something he enjoyed. Playing handball is a fact, not a judgement.

4. C — He does what he thinks is right, even when others don't like it.

When ‘the others groaned’, ‘he just shrugged’ and let Anika play anyway. He was winning, not losing. Anika is the new one, not Ben.