Year 4 reading comprehension: The Invitation

English · Reading comprehension
Level: Hard

Student: _____ Date: _____

Instructions
- Read the text first. There are 5 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 1–5.





The Invitation

The invitation says, “Disco theme!”
with a glitter ball in pink and green.
I've read it eight times. It still says disco.
I like Ruby. I like her cake.
I like her dog, who thinks he's a person and sits at the table.
I do not like the part
where the music goes up and everyone
forms a circle, and somebody shouts,
“Go on, show us your moves!”
I have no moves. I have two feet
that disagree about which way to go.
Mum says, “Just say you're sick.”
But I can't. My face goes red
when I tell even small lies,
and Ruby would see it from across the room.
(I tried it once at Gran's. My sister still brings it up.)

So I'm learning one dance move
in the hallway, in my socks.
It looks a bit like a chicken
trying to be a helicopter.
It will have to do.

1. The tone of the poem is best described as

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** serious and gloomy from start to finish
- ○ **B** calm and confident
- ○ **C** humorous, with some worry underneath
- ○ **D** cruel and mocking

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2. What does the last line, ‘It will have to do’, imply?

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** The speaker has decided not to go.
- ○ **B** The speaker will teach the move to Ruby.
- ○ **C** The speaker will go and try anyway.
- ○ **D** The speaker is proud of the dance move.

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3. The words ‘two feet that disagree about which way to go’ mainly suggest that the speaker

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** has hurt one of their feet
- ○ **B** is lost on the way to the party
- ○ **C** feels awkward and uncoordinated when dancing
- ○ **D** enjoys arguing with other people at parties and discos

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4. What stops the speaker from following Mum's advice?

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** The speaker blushes whenever telling even a small lie.
- ○ **B** The speaker is too excited about the disco.
- ○ **C** The speaker has already promised Ruby to dance in front of everybody.
- ○ **D** Mum has changed her mind about the party.

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5. What is the main reason the speaker dreads Ruby's party?

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** the disco theme on the invitation
- ○ **B** being watched while dancing in a circle
- ○ **C** not liking Ruby or her cake
- ○ **D** Ruby's dog behaving like a person

Answer key

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1. C — humorous, with some worry underneath

The text says: “I have no moves. I have two feet … But I can't. My face goes red … trying to be a helicopter.” The jokes are funny, but the speaker is clearly nervous about being watched. The tone is humorous with some worry underneath.

2. C — The speaker will go and try anyway.

The text says: “trying to be a helicopter. It will have to do.” ‘Will have to do’ means it is not perfect, but good enough, so the speaker is still going. The speaker will go and try anyway.

3. C — feels awkward and uncoordinated when dancing

The text says: “I have no moves. I have two feet that disagree about which way to go.” Feet that ‘disagree’ cannot move together, which is a joke about having no moves. The speaker feels awkward and uncoordinated when dancing.

4. A — The speaker blushes whenever telling even a small lie.

The text says: “But I can't. My face goes red when I tell even small lies, and Ruby would see it from across the room.” ‘My face goes red when I tell even small lies’ and Ruby would see it. The speaker cannot lie without blushing.

5. B — being watched while dancing in a circle

The text says: “I do not like the part where the music goes up and everyone forms a circle, and somebody shouts, “Go on, show us your moves!”” The speaker likes Ruby, her cake and her dog, but not the part where everyone shouts ‘show us your moves’. The speaker dreads being watched while dancing in a circle.