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Plot and Conflict

“Oh, well,” my dad said, trying to be nice. “At least we have corn on the cob!”

“Oh, no!” my brother yelled. “The corn!”

“You mean you forgot to take out the corn?” I yelled.

My brother just glared at me. I guess I had forgotten, too. My brother had been so busy trying not to burn the hot dogs that he had forgotten about the corn. He opened the grill and used the tongs to carefully take out the corn wrapped in foil. It was steaming and hissing. He used an oven mitt and unwrapped it, but it was too late—the corn had burned, too!

“You messed up our Father’s Day present last year. And now you did it again! You ruined Father’s Day,” I blurted out.

The conflict in this part of the story is *mainly* between Michael and his—

A mom

C brother

B dad

D self

Plot and
Conflict

The boys are trying so hard to cook the hot dogs together, but they keep messing up. They are constantly fighting with each other throughout the story. Choice C is correct.

2 The tone of the story is *best* described as—

A creepy

C angry

B humorous

D mysterious

3 Which of these sentences *best* expresses the theme, or lesson, of the story?

A Sometimes plans to get others in trouble backfire.

B Animals have great wisdom to share with their owners.

C Bad things happen when you have a jealous heart.

D Wild animals should not be house pets.

4 The climax of the story comes when—

A Callie decides to play a game on Douglas

B Douglas goes along with the game

C Callie and Douglas both get time-outs

D Callie tries to get Douglas to stop scratching

Plot and
Conflict

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Fitting In

by Lori Hawn

Kate was the new girl in third grade. She was a shy girl, but very nice. Being shy did not make it easy to meet new friends. At recess, Kate sat by herself. She was not sure whom to talk to or who would be nice. One day, she looked around the playground. She saw groups of people laughing and talking, some playing on the swing set, some playing hopscotch, and some just standing

around. She also saw one girl sitting by the school's brick wall, reading by herself. That girl was Debbie, and Debbie never really talked to anyone.

Kate decided that Debbie was not the person to talk to if she wanted to make friends. It wasn't that Kate didn't like Debbie, but Debbie wouldn't be able to help her meet other people. Kate decided to

1 The event that sets the conflict in motion is when the—

- A** rabbit asks the coyote to drink all the water
- B** rabbit asks the coyote to hold up the rock
- C** coyote cannot find the cheese
- D** coyote felt shame

2 What is the theme, or lesson, of the story?

3 The climax of the story comes when the—

- A** rabbit asks the coyote to hold up the rock
- B** coyote holds up the rock for hours
- C** rabbit asks the coyote to drink all the water
- D** coyote does not find the cheese under the water

4 Describe the character of the coyote. Use examples from the story to explain your answer.

5 Do you think the coyote will ever change? Why or why not?
