Focus on Plays

Name ________________________________

Answer Numbers 1 through 10. Base your answers on the play “Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing.”

1 Read this line from the play.

Things were fine until dessert . . .

What does the word fine mean in this sentence?

A good, okay
B healthy, fit
C very sharp
D very thin

2 How are a play and a story ALIKE?

F Both begin with a cast list.
G Both have stage directions.
H Both are written in paragraph form.
I Both have characters, plot, and setting.

3 Why does Mrs. Yarby ignore Peter at first?

A Peter says Juicy-O is disgusting.
B Peter is playing with a noisy toy.
C She does not have a good gift for him.
D She is only interested in small children.
4 Read this sentence from the play.

You know, Dad, I just drank the stuff to be polite.

Which word means the OPPOSITE of polite?

F healthy
G honest
H rude
I smart

5 How do Mrs. Yarby’s feelings toward Fudge change during the play? Use details and information from the play to support your answer.
6. What is the MAIN reason there are names in capital letters at the beginning of each speaking part?
   A. They tell the reader which character is talking.
   B. They tell the reader what the character is doing.
   C. They tell the reader why the character is talking.
   D. They tell the reader when the character is leaving.

7. The author wants the reader to think that Fudge
   F. has good manners.
   G. is angry and mean.
   H. likes to be naughty.
   I. is kind and thoughtful.

8. At the end of the play, why does Dad throw away all his cans of Juicy-O?
   A. He wants to recycle the cans.
   B. He no longer works for Mr. Yarby.
   C. He learns that Peter does not like it.
   D. He no longer thinks it is a healthy drink.

9. How does the author arrange the events in the play?
   F. She shows how one event compares to another.
   G. She presents events in the order in which they happen.
   H. She orders events from most important to least important.
   I. She uses flashbacks to show why the main event happens.
Describe what Mr. and Mrs. Yarby do AFTER Fudge comes out wearing the gorilla mask. Do you think they are right to react that way? Why or why not? Use details from the play and your own ideas in your response.
Name ________________________________

Answer Numbers 1 through 10. Base your answers on the play “Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing.”

1 Read this line from the play.

**Things were fine until dessert. . .**

What does the word *fine* mean in this sentence?

A good, okay  
B healthy, fit  
C very sharp  
D very thin

(LA.4.1.6.9)

2 How are a play and a story ALIKE?

F Both begin with a cast list.  
G Both have stage directions.  
H Both are written in paragraph form.  
I Both have characters, plot, and setting.

(LA.4.2.1.1)

3 Why does Mrs. Yarby ignore Peter at first?

A Peter says Juicy-O is disgusting.  
B Peter is playing with a noisy toy.  
C She does not have a good gift for him.  
D She is only interested in small children.

(LA.4.1.7.3)
4. Read this sentence from the play.

You know, Dad, I just drank the stuff to be polite.

Which word means the OPPOSITE of polite?

- F healthy
- G honest
- H rude
- I smart

(LA.4.1.6.8)

5. How do Mrs. Yarby’s feelings toward Fudge change during the play? Use details and information from the play to support your answer.

Sample 2-point response: At first, Mrs. Yarby thinks Fudge is very cute and sweet. She gives him a present and says he is adorable. By the end of the play, she thinks Fudge is awful. She is shocked when he brings out the turtle and puts on the mask. She is angry when he puts stickers on her suitcase.
What is the MAIN reason there are names in capital letters at the beginning of each speaking part?

- A. They tell the reader which character is talking.
- B. They tell the reader what the character is doing.
- C. They tell the reader why the character is talking.
- D. They tell the reader when the character is leaving.

(LA.4.1.7.1)

The author wants the reader to think that Fudge

- F. has good manners.
- G. is angry and mean.
- H. likes to be naughty.
- I. is kind and thoughtful.

(LA.4.1.7.2)

At the end of the play, why does Dad throw away all his cans of Juicy-O?

- A. He wants to recycle the cans.
- B. He no longer works for Mr. Yarby.
- C. He learns that Peter does not like it.
- D. He no longer thinks it is a healthy drink.

(LA.4.1.7.3)

How does the author arrange the events in the play?

- F. She shows how one event compares to another.
- G. She presents events in the order in which they happen.
- H. She orders events from most important to least important.
- I. She uses flashbacks to show why the main event happens.

(LA.4.1.7.5)
Describe what Mr. and Mrs. Yarby do AFTER Fudge comes out wearing the gorilla mask. Do you think they are right to react that way? Why or why not? Use details from the play and your own ideas in your response.

Sample 4-point response: When Fudge comes out wearing the gorilla mask, Mrs. Yarby is startled and she screams. She talks quietly with her husband for a moment, and then they announce that they are going to stay in a hotel. I think Mrs. Yarby is being very silly. It’s just a little boy in a mask, and Peter and his mom and dad are trying very hard to apologize and make her feel better. They feel very bad about how Fudge is acting.