Author's Purpose and Point of View

Grade 5 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer.

READ THIS FIRST

Give the Old Station a New Life

My grandfather still remembers the sound of the 5:15 train pulling into Millbrook Station. He was eight years old, and his father worked in the freight office. "The whole building shook," he told me, "and then the doors opened and the platform filled with people." For seventy years, the brick station on Front Street was the heart of our town.

Passenger trains stopped coming in 1985, and the station has been empty ever since. Its windows are boarded up, and part of the roof leaks. Pigeons nest in the clock tower. Next month, the city council will vote on whether to tear it down and build a parking lot. I believe that would be a serious mistake. Instead, Millbrook should turn the old station into a new public library.

Our current library badly needs more room. It was built in 1962 for a town half the size of Millbrook today. On Saturday mornings, children sit on the floor because every chair is taken. Last year, the library had to cancel its coding club because there was no space for the computers. The station's large waiting room, with its high ceilings and tall arched windows, could hold twice as many readers.

The station is also part of our history. Its clock tower appears on the town's official seal. Its walls hold the stories of the families who arrived, worked and said goodbye there. My grandfather's memories are not written in any book. They live in that building. Once a building like this is gone, it can never be replaced. A parking lot could go anywhere.

Some council members argue that repairing the station would cost too much. They are right that it would not be cheap. Engineers estimate the repairs at $2.1 million, while a parking lot would cost about $600,000. However, the state offers grants that pay up to half the cost of saving historic buildings. In addition, the library will need a larger building within ten years anyway. Building a brand-new library would cost even more. Saving the station now is the better use of our money.

Other towns have made this choice and been glad they did. When the town of Ashby turned its old mill into a library, visits doubled in the first year. New shops opened on the same street, because people who came for books stayed to look around. Today, the mill library is the busiest building in Ashby.

The old station does not look like much right now. But behind the plywood is a building that once brought our whole town together. With some care, it could do that again. Please come to the council meeting on March 12 and ask our leaders to vote for the library, not the parking lot.

1. What is the author's main purpose in this text?
   - to tell the history of the trains that stopped in Millbrook
   - to convince readers that the old station should become a library
   - to explain how engineers estimate the cost of repairs
   - to describe what the author's grandfather did as a boy

2. Why does the author begin with the grandfather's memory instead of a reason?
   - to prove that trains still stop in Millbrook
   - to help readers feel the station's importance first
   - to explain why passenger trains stopped in 1985
   - to show that the grandfather wants a parking lot

3. Why does the author admit that the windows are boarded up and the roof leaks?
   to explain why the library was built back in 1962
   to argue that the station is too damaged to save
   to show that the council has cared for the building well
   to be honest about the problem so readers trust the argument

4. In the fifth paragraph, how does the author respond to the council members' argument?
   ignores the argument and moves on to a new reason
   agrees the cost is high, then gives reasons it is still worth it
   agrees with it and changes the plan to a parking lot
   shows that the repairs would cost nothing at all

5. Why does the author include the example of Ashby?
   to show that a similar plan worked in another town
   to show that Ashby needs a new train station
   to compare the size of Ashby's mill with the station
   to suggest that Millbrook should build a new mill

6. "Once a building like this is gone, it can never be replaced. A parking lot could go anywhere." What point do these sentences make together?
   A parking lot would be harder to build than a library.
   The station should be moved to a new place in town.
   Parking lots last much longer than old brick buildings.
   The station is one of a kind, but a parking lot is not.

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Answer Key - Grade 5 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

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