Quote Accurately From a Text

Grade 5 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

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Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer.

READ THIS FIRST

The Watch-Repair Apprentice

Uncle Thaddeus did not believe in praise. "Praise is for finished work," he liked to say, "and no work is ever finished." Imani had spent every Saturday of the summer in his tiny watch-repair shop on Carver Street. She had not heard him say "good job" once.

The shop smelled of oil and old wood. Hundreds of clocks ticked on the walls, each a little out of step with the others. Outside, buses rumbled along Carver Street, but inside the shop, time seemed to move more slowly. Uncle Thaddeus worked at a narrow bench under a bright lamp, a magnifying lens fitted into one eye. Imani's bench was smaller and stood in the corner. For the first month, her only jobs were sweeping, sorting screws by size, and polishing glass faces until they shone.

"When do I get to fix something?" she asked in July.

"When your hands are quiet," he said, and went back to work.

Imani didn't understand what he meant until she tried to pick up a screw smaller than a grain of rice. Her tweezers trembled, and the screw leaped onto the floor. She spent twenty minutes on her knees searching for it with a flashlight. After that, she practiced every morning. She picked up seeds, then salt crystals, then the tiniest screws, until her tweezers stopped shaking.

In August, a woman brought in a silver pocket watch that had belonged to her father. It had not ticked in thirty years. Uncle Thaddeus opened the back, studied it, and slid it across the bench toward Imani.

"The balance spring is bent," he said. "Show me what you would do."

Imani's heart pounded so hard she could feel it in her fingertips. She explained each step out loud. He said nothing, only nodded once or twice. Then he handed her his own tweezers, the old brass pair with the worn grips. No one else was allowed to touch them.

It took her the whole afternoon. Twice she had to stop and rest her eyes. When she finally closed the case and wound the watch, it began to tick, soft and steady.

Uncle Thaddeus held it to his ear for a long time. "It runs four seconds slow," he said.

Imani's shoulders dropped. Four seconds. All afternoon, and still four seconds wrong.

Imani rode her bike to the shop early the next Saturday, still thinking about those four seconds. When she arrived, her bench had been moved. It now stood under the bright lamp, right beside his. On it lay a small card in his stiff, square handwriting: "Imani Brooks, Apprentice."

Uncle Thaddeus didn't look up from his work. "The Delgado clock needs a new pin," he said. "I told them you would have it done by noon."

Imani sat down at the bench and picked up a tiny screw. Her hands were completely quiet.

1. Which quotation best explains why Imani never heard her uncle say "good job"?
   Hundreds of clocks ticked on the walls, each a little out of step with the others.
   "When your hands are quiet," he said, and went back to work.
   "Praise is for hard work," he liked to say, "and all work is hard."
   "Praise is for finished work," he liked to say, "and no work is ever finished."

2. What did Uncle Thaddeus mean by "When your hands are quiet"?
   - when Imani can hold her tools without shaking
   - when Imani wears gloves to protect her hands
   - when Imani stops talking while she works
   - when Imani has finished sweeping the shop

3. Which quotation best supports the inference that Imani worked hard to meet her uncle's standard?
   - After that, she gave up every morning.
   - After that, she rested every morning.
   - After that, she practiced every morning.
   - "When do I get to fix something?" she asked in July.

4. Which quotation best supports the inference that Uncle Thaddeus trusts Imani with something special?
   - Twice she had to stop and rest her eyes.
   - "It runs four seconds slow," he said.
   - Then he handed her his own tweezers, the old brass pair with the worn grips.
   - Then he handed her a new pair of tweezers from the drawer.

5. Which quotation best shows that Imani felt nervous when she was handed the pocket watch?
   - Imani's heart pounded so hard she could feel it in her fingertips.
   - Imani's heart slowed so much she could barely feel it.
   - She explained each step out loud.
   - It took her the whole afternoon.

6. Why do Imani's "shoulders dropped" after her uncle listens to the watch?
   - She thinks his comment means she failed.
   - She is relieved the job is finally over.
   - She is angry that he held the watch so long.
   - She is proud that the watch runs perfectly.

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Answer Key - Grade 5 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

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