Between the Lines

Use story clues to understand what characters do not say.

4.LF.16.a "Identify clues in the text to recognize implicit meanings."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline at least four details that hint at what a character thinks or feels without saying it directly.

The Book Swap

1. On Friday, the class set up a table for the school book swap. When Ana opened the box of donated books, a thin envelope slid onto the floor. She picked it up by the corners. On the front, someone had written, "For the next reader." Ana glanced at the busy room, then tucked the envelope beneath a stack of books instead of opening it.

2. A few minutes later, the first students arrived. Malik stopped at a book with a torn cover. He ran his finger over a drawing of a rocket and read the first page while the other students hurried past. When a younger child reached for the same book, Malik slid it toward her. "You can take it," he said, though he kept looking at the rocket.

3. Across the room, the teacher placed a small sign beside the table: ONE BOOK PER PERSON. Ana watched a boy arrive with no book in his hands. He studied the table but stayed near the doorway until the teacher waved him over. As he left with a book, he held it against his chest. Ana noticed the envelope was still hidden beneath the stack.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How can you tell Malik is interested in the rocket book, even though its cover is torn?

2. What does Malik's choice to give the book to the younger child suggest about him? Use a clue from the story.

3. Why might the boy wait near the doorway until the teacher waves him over? Use a clue from the story.

4. What does the way the boy carries his book suggest about how he feels? Use a clue from the story.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Reread what Ana does with the envelope after she opens the box. Why might she tuck it beneath the books instead of opening it? Write two sentences and use two clues from the story.

ANSWER KEY

Between the Lines

GRADE 4 · 4.LF.16.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline at least four details that hint at what a character thinks or feels without saying it directly. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How can you tell Malik is interested in the rocket book, even though its cover is torn?	**He traces the rocket drawing, reads the first page, and keeps looking at the book.**
2	What does Malik's choice to give the book to the younger child suggest about him? Use a clue from the story.	**He is willing to put someone else first. He gives her the book even though he keeps looking at it.**
3	Why might the boy wait near the doorway until the teacher waves him over? Use a clue from the story.	**He may be unsure whether he can join the swap because he has no book to bring.**
4	What does the way the boy carries his book suggest about how he feels? Use a clue from the story.	**The book seems important to him. He holds it against his chest as he leaves.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Ana may want to keep the envelope safe for the next reader. The front says "For the next reader," and Ana tucks it beneath the books while the room is busy.

Accept reasonable inferences supported by specific passage details. For the open task, students should explain Ana's choice, not invent later actions.