Clues on Stage

Notice what the story states and what its clues suggest.

4.LF.21.b "Explain the difference between implied and explicit details."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that state how Nia prepared for the show. Circle two actions that hint at a feeling the author does not name.

Nia's Song

1 On Friday, Nia's class held a small talent show in the gym. Nia had signed up to play a song on her violin. She practiced the same eight bars each night after dinner, even when her little brother begged her to play his favorite tune instead. On the morning of the show, she checked her violin case twice before leaving home.

2 The gym smelled like floor polish, and folding chairs filled the front half of the room. When the teacher called Nia's name, Nia rubbed her palms on her jeans. She walked toward the stage with tiny steps and held the violin case close to her chest. At the steps, she stopped and took one long breath before climbing up.

3 At first, her bow squeaked against a string. Nia looked at the empty chair near the back wall, where she had practiced during lunch. She began the song again. This time, the notes came out clear. After the last note, she lowered her violin and grinned at her brother in the front row. He clapped so hard that his paper program slipped to the floor.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does the story state directly about how Nia prepared for the show? Give one detail.

2. How does Nia seem to feel when her name is called? Give two clues that suggest this feeling.

3. Nia stops and takes a long breath at the steps. Is the breath an explicit detail or an implied feeling? Explain the difference using this moment.

4. How does Nia seem to feel after the song? Give one clue, and tell whether the story states that feeling directly.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a two-sentence mini scene about someone trying something new. Do not name the character's feeling in the scene; add a third sentence that names the implied feeling and points to an explicit action that suggests it.

Clues on Stage

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details that state how Nia prepared for the show. Circle two actions that hint at a feeling the author does not name. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does the story state directly about how Nia prepared for the show? Give one detail.	**Nia practiced the same eight bars each night after dinner.**
2	How does Nia seem to feel when her name is called? Give two clues that suggest this feeling.	**Nia seems nervous. She rubs her palms on her jeans and walks toward the stage with tiny steps.**
3	Nia stops and takes a long breath at the steps. Is the breath an explicit detail or an implied feeling? Explain the difference using this moment.	**The breath is an explicit detail because the story states that Nia takes it. Her nervousness is implied by that action, not stated.**
4	How does Nia seem to feel after the song? Give one clue, and tell whether the story states that feeling directly.	**Nia seems pleased because she grins at her brother. The story does not state her feeling directly.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Sam stood at the edge of the diving board and gripped the rail. He watched the water below, then took a slow step forward. Sam seems nervous because he grips the rail.

Accept supported feelings such as nervous or worried before the song and pleased or relieved afterward. Students should distinguish an action the story states from a feeling they infer.