Ties That Support

Compare family relationships and the reasons people rely on them.

SS24.S.9a "Compare and contrast biological family with found or chosen family and develop an argument regarding why a person may select one over the other."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two ways both kinds of family can support a person, circle phrases that distinguish their ties, and number two details that explain why someone turns to one group for a particular need.

Who Do You Call?

1 Families can be built through different kinds of ties. A biological family consists of relatives connected by birth, such as parents, siblings, or grandparents. A found or chosen family consists of people who intentionally treat one another like family, even if they are not biologically related. A person can belong to both, and a chosen family may include some relatives. Both kinds of family can offer care, advice, shared traditions, and a sense of belonging. Yet a biological connection exists without anyone choosing it, while chosen ties depend on people building and continuing those relationships. Neither label guarantees that someone will be supportive.

2 At sixteen, Leila has to decide whom to call after she misses the bus home from rehearsal. Her father lives across town and works nights. Leila and her theater friends consider one another chosen family, and their households have agreed to help everyone get home safely. Leila calls her friend Nia's parent for a ride. This choice does not mean she loves her father less. The nearby group can respond immediately, while her father cannot leave work. On weekends, Leila turns to her father for advice about money because she trusts his experience and their long history together.

3 When Marcus considers changing schools, he asks his older sister for advice rather than the neighbors he calls his chosen family. His sister remembers how he handled earlier changes and promises to talk through the decision without rushing him. His neighbors care about him, but they do not know his school history as well. In another situation, Marcus might turn to those neighbors because they can visit when his sister is away at college. His choices depend on the kind of help he needs, the trust people have built, and who is available, not on a rule that one type of family is better.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do biological and chosen family differ in how their ties begin, and what is one kind of support both can offer?

2. Why does Leila turn to her chosen family for a ride but to her father for money advice?

3. Why does Marcus ask his sister about changing schools instead of his chosen family? What could make him turn to the neighbors at another time?

4. How do Leila's and Marcus's choices support the claim that neither type of family is always better? Use one detail about each person.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Sam moves to a new city for a yearlong apprenticeship. Sam's biological relatives call regularly but live far away, while trusted coworkers offer rides and help with job challenges. In five or six sentences, compare the support both groups offer and argue which group Sam might rely on most this year, including one reason Sam might choose the other group instead.

ANSWER KEY

Ties That Support

HIGH SCHOOL · SS24.S.9a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two ways both kinds of family can support a person, circle phrases that distinguish their ties, and number two details that explain why someone turns to one group for a particular need. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do biological and chosen family differ in how their ties begin, and what is one kind of support both can offer?	**Biological ties come through birth, while chosen ties are built intentionally. Both can offer care, advice, traditions, or belonging.**
2	Why does Leila turn to her chosen family for a ride but to her father for money advice?	**Her chosen family is nearby and can give her a ride when her father is working. She trusts her father's experience and their long history when she needs money advice.**
3	Why does Marcus ask his sister about changing schools instead of his chosen family? What could make him turn to the neighbors at another time?	**His sister knows how he handled earlier changes and will talk without rushing him. He could turn to the neighbors when he needs someone nearby while she is away.**
4	How do Leila's and Marcus's choices support the claim that neither type of family is always better? Use one detail about each person.	**Leila relies on chosen family for a ride but on her father for money advice. Marcus relies on his sister for school advice but might rely on his neighbors when she is away. Each chooses based on the help available.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Both Sam's relatives and coworkers can offer support, but they can help in different ways. Sam's relatives stay in touch by phone, while the coworkers are nearby and understand the apprenticeship. Sam might rely on the coworkers most this year because they can provide rides and help solve problems at work. This choice would not make the relatives less important. If Sam needs advice about a personal decision, a relative who knows Sam well might be the better person to call. The best choice depends on the kind of help Sam needs.

Accept other well-supported arguments in Part 3, including an argument for relying more on relatives. Look for an accurate comparison, a clear choice, and a plausible reason to turn to the other group.