

EXTENDED READING
COMPREHENSION**THINK FAST!**

Continue reading, and then answer the questions that follow.

- 24 Anita raised an eyebrow as she tucked the soccer ball under her arm and silently took the sketchbook from Norah. As Anita studied the drawing, Norah resisted the urge to grab the sketchbook and hide. *Why did I show her?* Norah thought. *She's going to think it's totally weird!*
- 25 "Huh," Anita said. She squinted at the drawing. Her face was unreadable.
- 26 "Like I said, it's nothing special," Norah said, reaching for the book.
- 27 "No," Anita replied, "I think it's awesome! Can I have it?" Before Norah could respond, Anita had ripped Norah's drawing out of the sketchbook.
- 28 "Think fast!" Anita said, tossing the sketchbook back to Norah.
- 29 This time, Norah was ready, and she caught Anita's throw. As Norah hugged her sketchbook close, Anita **rummaged** through a drawer.
- 30 "I'm not really into art galleries and stuff," Anita said, fiddling with a tape dispenser she'd pulled from amidst the jumble of things in the dresser drawer. "But this drawing should definitely be on display here...in our room."
- 31 "Our room?" Norah repeated.
- 32 Anita taped Norah's drawing over one of her posters. "If you're moving in, we need to make a few changes around here, roomie."
- 33 Suddenly a weight lifted from Norah's shoulders, and a real smile crept across her face. She picked up Anita's soccer ball and tossed it toward her new roommate. "Think fast!"

Answer the following questions about "Think Fast!"

1. **Part A:** Which statement best captures the theme of the story?

- A. It is better to stay where you are than to leave home.
- B. Keeping an open mind about someone can bring positive results.
- C. Family is more important than anything else.
- D. Don't be afraid to stand up to bullies.

Part B: Describe how this theme is developed throughout the story.

At first, Anita and Norah were not open to each other's interests. Once Norah opened her mind and paid attention to Anita's love of soccer, Anita was able to open her mind and appreciate Norah's love of art, and both girls were more excited to share a room.

2. How does the flashback in paragraph 2 help the reader understand more about the characters?

The flashback helps readers understand that Norah and Anita don't know each other well and that they don't seem to have anything in common.

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3. Part A: Which **three** adjectives below best describe Norah’s character based on what she says and does in the story?

adaptable athletic **artistic** charming outgoing **timid** wise

Part B: Give an example from the story that supports each of the adjectives you chose above.

Adjective	Example from the text
adaptable	Norah is willing to share her cousin’s room after having her own room in California.
artistic	Norah loves drawing, and she sketches Anita bouncing the soccer ball.
timid	Norah knocks timidly on Anita’s door and doesn’t want to be a bother to her cousin.

4. Part A: For most of the story, how does Anita feel about having her cousin Norah move in? Cite specific text evidence to support your answer.

Anita is unhappy about Norah sharing her room. Anita does not greet Norah when she arrives, and she blocks the door instead of inviting Norah in. Anita frowns at Norah’s suitcase and asks if Norah’s going to move back to California.

Part B: What causes Anita’s feelings to change?

Anita sees that Norah is interested in her love of soccer. Anita is also impressed by Norah’s artistic talent.

5. What is the meaning of **inconspicuously** as it is used in paragraph 20?

- A. obviously B. easily **C. secretly** D. confidently

6. What is the meaning of **rummaged** as it is used in paragraph 29?

- A. searched messily** B. looked delicately C. hunted silently D. peered anxiously

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7. Complete the chart below to compare and contrast Norah and Anita based on evidence from the story.

	Norah	Anita	Both
Personality	shy, creative, adaptable	standoffish, bold, playful	passionate about a hobby
Interests	art, museums, galleries	soccer, sports, music	none
Thoughts and Feelings	nervous, uncomfortable, self-conscious about moving in with her cousin	unenthusiastic, bored, not excited to share her room with a cousin she has nothing in common with	unsure about change, excited to share a room (at the end of the story)

8. In your own words, write a brief summary of the story.

Norah and her mom have just moved from California to New York, where they are living with Norah’s aunt Sonam and her daughter Anita. Norah is nervous about sharing a room with her cousin Anita, whom she has only met once before. Norah loves art and drawing, but Anita is only interested in soccer. When Anita finally opens her bedroom door to Norah, Anita doesn’t seem at all excited about the situation and doesn’t say or do anything to make Norah feel welcome. Norah brings her stuff into the bedroom and the girls start talking, but Anita immediately seems uninterested, and Norah feels uncomfortable. An awkward silence falls as Anita goes back to bouncing her soccer ball, so Norah begins to sketch her cousin as a way to overcome her nervousness. When Norah finishes the sketch, Anita sees it and is impressed by her cousin’s art skills. Anita makes space to hang the drawing on the bedroom wall, calling it “our room,” which immediately puts Norah at ease. In the end, both girls are more comfortable with their new living situation.