

READING COMPREHENSION: FICTION



Answer the following questions about “First Flight.”

1. Part A: Which of the following best describes the main theme of the story?

A. You shouldn't be so overly cautious that you ruin an adventure.

B. You have to try and fail many times before you can be successful.

C. It is worth overcoming fears to try something new and exciting.

D. The best way to learn is through failure and more instruction.

Part B: Cite two specific parts of the text that support the theme of the story.

The text shows that Cody is scared when it says that he was “second-guessing everything.” With his stepsister’s help, Cody overcomes his fear and has a great experience hang gliding, saying, “Let’s go again!” after his first flight.

2. Based on the information in paragraph 2, which two conclusions can be drawn about Briana?
- A. She is too busy with her college classes to spend much time with her stepbrother.
- B. She enjoys her independence and being away from home.
- C. She wants to be involved in her stepbrother’s life.**
- D. She makes time to focus on Cody and his interests.**
- E. She would rather spend time on her own hobbies.
3. What does the phrase “leapt at the chance” in paragraph 3 tell you about Cody’s reaction to Briana’s invitation to go hang gliding?

The phrase “leapt at the chance” indicates that Cody is excited and eager to try hang gliding with his stepsister when she first invites him.

4. How does Cody feel in paragraph 4? Cite evidence from the text to support your answer.

In paragraph 4, it becomes clear that Cody feels uneasy about leaping off the dunes. The text supports this when it says that he was “second-guessing everything” and that he had “shoulders and teeth clenched, knuckles white on the metal frame.” These actions are usually signs of fear or nerves.

5. How does paragraph 5 help the development of the plot?

In paragraph 5, Briana gives Cody the encouragement he needs to face his fears and ultimately have a great first flight.

6. Describe how Briana helps Cody have a successful first flight. Use details from the text to support your answer.

She helps Cody work through his nerves, and she coaches him to get into position, hold the bar correctly, and launch off the sand dune.

7. Read the following excerpt from paragraph 7.

He savored the feeling of the warm wind on his face as he soared through the air like a bird.

Without changing the meaning of the sentence, which word can be used to replace the underlined part?

A. disliked **B. enjoyed** C. escaped D. ignored

8. What does Cody’s reaction at the end suggest about his attitude towards the experience?

A. He is nervous about flying again.

B. He is thrilled with the experience.

C. He is upset that he didn’t land on his feet.

D. He is proud of himself for learning a new skill.

9. Based on evidence in the text, what does Cody likely see as his “future in flight”?

Cody likely expects to have more opportunities to go hang gliding with his stepsister.
