

Reading and Literary Analysis

DIRECTIONS: Questions 1-5 are about "The Wrong Weight." Read the selection. Then read each question and choose the best answer.

The Wrong Weight

Marisa watched her twin brother Max run up the road. He was wearing a heavy sweater and a parka. Sweat poured off his beet-red face.

As he jogged past, Marisa saw the look in his eyes. It was the serious look he got when he was determined to do something. Marisa knew she should keep her mouth shut. Instead, she shouted, "Are you crazy? It's 78 degrees out here. Why are you running around in a winter coat?"



"Mind your own business," Max grunted. His face was an unhealthy color, almost purple.

Later, Marisa was in the kitchen when Max came inside. She expected him to gulp down three glasses of water, but he passed the sink without stopping. "Dinner's ready," she said. Max did not reply.

At the table, Marisa watched her twin curiously. He picked at his salad, but he ignored the chicken and rice. Max hadn't eaten last night either. *What's going on?* Marisa wondered.

Their father tried to start a conversation. "Son, I'm so proud you made the varsity in tenth grade! When's the first wrestling match?"

"Not sure, Dad," Max mumbled. "Soon." Marisa could see that he didn't want to talk about wrestling. That was strange. Max would usually talk about wrestling until Marisa begged him to stop.

"But everything's going well at practice?" Dad continued.

"Yeah, great," Max replied, excusing himself from the table.

Wrestling wasn't going great though as Marisa learned from her friend Grace. "It's too bad about

Max," Grace had said. "But Richie has been wrestling in the 140-pound weight class for two years now." Richie was Grace's boyfriend. "There is just no way that Coach Flores will use Max in that category."

A picture of Max in his parka flashed into Marisa's mind. "Well, maybe Max can wrestle in another class," she suggested. "At a lower weight maybe?"

Grace shrugged. "I doubt it. We have really good seniors wrestling at 135 pounds and 130 pounds too." Marisa hadn't realized that Grace followed the Lakeside wrestling team so closely.

"The 119-pound weight class is open," Grace went on, "but Max would have to lose over 20 pounds to compete. In a hurry, too. That wouldn't be healthy."

"I'm sure he wouldn't do that," Marisa replied, trying to sound confident. Deep down, however, she knew that was exactly what her brother was doing.

At home, Marisa looked up *rapid weight loss* on the Internet. She didn't like what she found. By not drinking water, Max risked dehydration. Also, he was probably losing not just fat but muscle.

"I know what you're doing," Marisa told her brother that night. "And it's a bad idea!" He was hard at work punching a new hole in his belt.

"Mind your own business," Max replied. "Everything is okay."

Marisa knew everything wasn't okay. For one thing, her brother was in a bad mood all the time. He seemed depressed. He wasn't paying attention in class either, and he had failed a math test. Marisa knew her brother wasn't a failure, but he could be stubborn. She could only hope that wrestling was going better for him.

It wasn't. That was obvious on Friday night. Marisa sat with her parents during the season's first wrestling match. The 103-pound and 112-pound Lakeside wrestlers won their matches easily. Then Max walked out onto the mat.

Their father did a double take. "Why is Max wrestling at 119?"

Rather than answer him, Marisa started cheering. "Go! Max! Go! Go!"

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The cheering didn't help. Anyone could see that Max looked tired. He didn't have his normal strength and energy. In less than a minute, his opponent had pinned

him to the mat. Standing up, Max stumbled, and the referee had to help him to a bench. Coach Flores walked over and sat down next to Max. Marisa could see that they were having a serious talk.

After the match, the whole family went out to eat. No one mentioned Max's loss. Marisa was glad about that. She was even gladder when Max ate a large meal and ordered a second milkshake. "Drink up!" she said with a smile.

"I was wrong, Marisa," Max finally replied. Coach said I may have to wait until next year for the right weight class. But it will be worth it to be where I belong. "You just can't squeeze a 140-pound body into a 119-pound weight class!"

1 Which of Max's statements show he will stop trying to lose weight?

- A "Not sure, Dad."
- B "Everything is okay."
- C "I was wrong, Marisa."
- D "Mind your own business."

2 At the beginning of "The Jinx" and "The Wrong Weight," both Christina and Marisa feel

- A lazy.
- B sick.
- C concerned.
- D foolish.

3 In "The Jinx" and "The Wrong Weight," both Amie and Marisa are important characters because they

- A believe in luck.
- B try to help someone.
- C lose something valuable.
- D care about their brothers.

4 In "The Jinx" and in "The Wrong Weight," both Christina's and Grace's dialogues show

- A what the problem is.
- B how the plot will end.
- C who the main characters are.
- D how the problem will be solved.

DIRECTIONS: Read question 18. Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper. 

5 Based on the passage, explain why Max's plan did not work. Use details from the passage to support your answer.