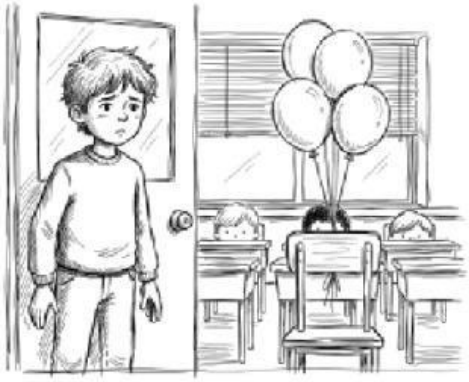
The Quiet Room
Inference

Read the story. Then answer the questions on the next page.

Story



1 Jamal hurried down the hall with a note from the dentist in his hand and one side of his mouth still numb. The door of Room 12 was shut, and no light showed under it. He could not hear a single voice, which had never happened before in Mr. Okafor's class.

2 He pushed the door open slowly. The blinds were down. At first the room looked empty, but then he saw the tops of heads behind every desk. A hand shot out and pulled him down behind the bookshelf. "You were out yesterday," Lin whispered. "Just stay low and do what we do."

3 On the teacher's desk sat a white box from the bakery, a pack of candles, and a tall stack of folded paper cards, each one covered with marker and glitter. Somebody had tied a bunch of balloons to the chair. Lin kept peeking at the clock above the board. "He always gets back from the office at ten sharp," she said.

4 Footsteps came down the hall, along with a jingle of keys. The doorknob turned. Every child in the room jumped up at once and shouted so loudly that the windows rattled. Mr. Okafor dropped his coffee cup, and it bounced across the floor.

5 For a moment he just stood there with his hand on his chest. Then he took off his glasses and wiped them on his tie for a long time. "Forty of these," he said at last, "and nobody has ever gotten me before." His voice wobbled a little. Jamal slipped a blank card off the stack and reached for a marker.

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Inference

The text does not say the answer. Find the clue that helps you and underline it in the color shown.

A **Answer each question.**

1. **What can you infer about Mr. Okafor's class on most days?** red

   - ○ It is usually silent.
   - ○ It is usually full of talking.
   - ○ It is usually kept dark.

2. **Why does Jamal not know what is going on?** orange

   - ○ He forgot what the class had planned.
   - ○ Lin wanted to play a trick on him.
   - ○ The class made the plan on a day when he was absent.

3. **Which sentence best shows that Mr. Okafor did not expect the surprise?** yellow

   - ○ Mr. Okafor dropped his coffee cup, and it bounced across the floor.
   - ○ The doorknob turned.
   - Somebody had tied a bunch of balloons to the chair.

L__o ___

B **Answer each question.**

4. **What is the class celebrating? Write the clue that helps you.** green

5. **How does Mr. Okafor feel at the end of the story?** blue

   - ○ annoyed about the spilled coffee
   - ○ touched and grateful
   - ○ worried about the lesson

6. **What do you think Jamal will do next? Use a clue from the story to explain.**

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