Name _____ **Assessment SOL 4.5 b,c Theme/Summarize**

A First-Place Friend

1 One morning two monkey friends named Max and Sidney were swinging through the lush, leafy jungle. They decided to have a friendly competition and race up an umbrella tree, and Max easily won the contest. When Sidney finally caught up, he felt a stab of jealousy.

2 "You're the winner," Sidney declared with a sigh.

3 "I've been practicing," Max admitted shyly.

4 Down below, an alligator floated in the river, watching the monkeys with hungry eyes. He was contemplating how he could catch one of them. Suddenly, the alligator had an idea.

5 "Monkeys!" the alligator shrieked. "You both climb well, but who can do the most somersaults? It's a much more difficult trick to spin around on the branches."

6 Sidney proudly puffed out his chest and stood as tall as he could. "I can!" he announced in a determined voice. A second later, the two monkeys began spinning around like furry wheels. Sidney tumbled over three times, but Max did four somersaults.

7 "You won again," Sidney muttered, and his head drooped.

8 "I practiced my somersaults, too," Max told him quietly.

9 Down below, the alligator crept closer. "You both somersault well, but who can walk across that long, skinny branch above me?" he challenged. "That is the most challenging trick of all."

10 Max stared at the skinny branch and at the alligator's big jaws. His sharp teeth made his heart pound. "That trick is too dangerous," Max replied.

11 "I'm not afraid to try!" Sidney bragged. His mind was focused on winning this contest. This time he'd be the best!

12 Carefully, Sidney made his way through the tree branches and stepped out onto the skinny branch like a tightrope walker. The branch bowed under his weight, but he used his tail as a safety rope and held on tightly.

13 Step by step, Sidney slowly made his way across the branch. He'd almost reached the end when a gust of wind shook him. Sidney's foot slipped, and he started to tumble down, bouncing off the branches.

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14 “Help me!” cried Sidney, as the alligator opened his enormous jaws.

15 In a flash, Max jumped over and reached out to catch his friend. Seconds later, the the alligator's jaws snapped shut, but he only caught a mouthful of air.

16 “Thank you,” replied Sidney as he rested safely on a branch with Max. All at once, Sidney realized that the alligator wanted him to fall, and Sidney felt foolish. He’d been so busy trying to beat Max, he hadn’t been careful.

17 “No more tricks,” Sidney informed the alligator. “It is only your hungry stomach that likes our contests.”

18 “No, no,” argued the alligator. “I was just yawning. Why don’t you see who can do the most cartwheels?” he suggested sweetly.

19 “I have a much better idea,” replied Sidney. “We’ll show you who can climb the highest.”

20 “Yes!” laughed Max, and he shot into the treetop. Sidney followed behind him, and this time, Sidney didn’t mind if Max took first place. In fact, he was truly glad that he had a friend who was both speedy and smart!

1. Which of the following statements best reflects the theme of the story? Select two answers.

Friendship is more important than winning.
Practicing can lead to winning contests.
Tricks should only be done in calm weather.
Being friendly means saying kind words.
Be careful who influences you.

2. Which is the least important information to include in a summary of this story?

- o A. The alligator was contemplating how to catch one of them.
- o B. Max and Sidney had a friendly competition.
- o C. Max practiced his somersaults.
- o D. Max saved Sidney from being eaten by the alligator.

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3. Select the meaning of the word contemplating as it is used in paragraph 4.

> Down below, an alligator floated in the river, watching the monkeys with hungry eyes. He was contemplating how he could catch one of them. Suddenly, the alligator had an idea.

○A. floating ○B. swimming ○C. winning ○D. thinking

4. Complete the flowchart by placing the events from the story in the correct order.

Max the monkey wins the tree climbing race.

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A gust of wind causes Sidney to tumble from the branch.

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- Max saves Sidney from the alligator's jaws.
- They decided to race up an umbrella tree.
- They raced to see who could climb the highest.
- Max wins the somersault contest.

5. Which sentence is the best summary of paragraphs 1-3?

○ A. Max is bragging to his friend Sidney because he is fast.

○ B. An alligator sees monkeys swinging in trees that look good to eat.

○ C. Max and Sidney learned a big lesson.

○ D. Max and Sidney are monkeys that are racing each other.

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Maria and Brenda

1 As the door closed behind her, Maria trudged along to the school bus. Her mother caught up with her to hand her a lunchbox with a childish design on it. It was already hard enough going to a new school, but now she had to carry a silly lunchbox.

2 "Could things get even worse?" Maria mumbled to herself.

3 The thought of going to a new school made Maria nervous and angry at the same time. She did not want to go to a new school. *Why did my dad have to get a new job?* she thought to herself as she sat down in an empty seat. Life was much better where she used to live. It was a small town, but she liked it that way. There was so much that she missed at her old school. It was hard leaving her good friends. She really liked her teachers too.

4 Her family rented a small apartment in the city. Their apartment was dirty, dark, and paint was starting to peel off the walls. She used to have her own room, but now she had to share a room with her little brother. Things had not gone well since her parents told her they were moving to a new state.

5 As she got off the bus, she saw a lot of kids going inside. She had never seen so many people at one place in her life. Finally, she found the nerve to walk inside. Her classroom was easy to find and she didn't get lost. She met her teacher, Mrs. Tilly. Mrs. Tilly was very nice and had a pretty smile.

6 While Maria was unpacking her school supplies, a girl with bright blue eyes came up to her desk.

7 "Hi, my name is Brenda. What is your name?" asked the bright blue-eyed girl.

8 "Maria," she shyly answered.

9 "Would you like to sit with me at lunchtime?" continued Brenda.

10 "Sure," said Maria, trying not to sound too excited.

11 Things were starting to get better for Maria for the first time since she moved. She actually liked her new school. She couldn't wait until lunchtime so that she could sit with Brenda.

12 The students lined up to go to lunch. Then the teacher dismissed them to the cafeteria. Once Maria walked in the cafeteria, she saw that Brenda saved a seat for her at the lunch table.

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13 When Maria put her lunchbox on the table, Brenda started to laugh. Maria knew this would happen. She began to turn red. The embarrassment was too much for her. She could feel the tears forming in her eyes.

14 “That’s funny! I have that same lunchbox,” giggled Brenda as she put her lunchbox on the table. “I thought I was the only one in my class with a silly lunchbox. I used to be embarrassed about it, but now I’m not.”

15 Maria was so relieved, she started to laugh. She had a good feeling about her new friend. They already seemed to have something in common.

Lion and the Mouse

1 Lion slept soundly in the jungle. At the same time, Mouse ran around, up and down, and all over Lion. Lion woke up angry. Lion put his paw on Mouse and opened his mouth to eat him.

2 “Please, sir,” Mouse said. “Please forgive me. I won’t do that again. Maybe one day I can do a favor for you.”

3 When Lion thought about Mouse helping him, he laughed and he let Mouse go.

4 Later, Lion walked through the jungle and was caught in a net. The hunters left Lion wrapped up in the net in a tree while they looked for a wagon to take Lion to the King.

5 Mouse passed by and noticed that Lion was in bad shape. Mouse climbed up to Lion and gnawed on the net. Soon the ropes fell away, and Lion was free.

6 “See, I was able to help you,” Mouse said.

6. Both stories share the themes of- (Select TWO correct answers)

Friends can be made even in difficult situations.
Moving always provides new friends.
A bad situation might give a nice surprise.
People who are different can’t be friends.

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7. Select the meaning of the word trudged as it is used in this sentence.

As the door closed behind her, Maria trudged along to the school bus.

○A. ran quickly

○B. showed excitement

○C. walked slowly

○D. forgot something

8. Complete the flowchart by placing the events from the story "Maria and Brenda" in the correct order.

	Brenda's mom handed her the silly lunchbox.
She met her new teacher, Mrs. Tilly.	Maria was nervous and angry about a new school.
Brenda asked Maria to sit with her at lunch.	Brenda had the same lunchbox as Maria.
	Maria decided not to be friends with Brenda.

9. What is the best summary of paragraph 3 in "Maria and Brenda?"

○ A. Maria was embarrassed by her silly lunchbox.

○ B. Maria missed her old school and did not want to go to a new school.

○ C. Lion thought it was hilarious that Mouse thought he could help him.

○ D. Things had not gone well for Maria since she learned that she was moving.

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10. Which sentence best describes the theme of the story?

- ○ A. Something good can come out of a negative experience.
- ○ B. It is not easy making friends at a new school.
- ○ C. Never take a lunchbox on the first day in a new school.
- ○ D. Wait for others to start a conversation.

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