

Name: _____

Date: _____

Reading comprehension

Read the passage and answer the questions.



THE RUMOR

Elaine was furious! How could this happen? The worst part was that her sister had started the ugly rumor. Elaine and Madeline were twins. Three years before, they had moved to Flamingo Primary School. Elaine did very well the first year. She was a school prefect, president of the 4H Club and had a solid B average. Madeline also did well. She maintained a straight A average, was Head Girl of her school and sang lead in the school's choir.

One day while riding the bus to school, Elaine noticed a group of girls gathered around Madeline. They looked concerned and appeared to be staring at Elaine. She felt uneasy and moved closer to the group. As Elaine approached, everyone turned around and became oddly quiet. How strange, thought Elaine? Once at school she asked Madeline what was going on. "What did you tell them?" she asked. "You are so egotistical. You think all I have to talk about is you," replied Madeline.

Elaine ignored her twin. But her feeling of unease returned when she felt eyes boring into her back during lunch. Then one girl asked her how she scored in the last Math test and another asked if she thought Science was hard. Elaine didn't understand the sudden interest in her grades.

That evening it all began to make sense. Her mother asked to speak with her privately. Elaine's mind raced! "Honey," her mother said, "your teacher called today. It seems that some of the girls think you are having problems with your schoolwork." As her mother continued to talk, Elaine realized that Madeline had told people that she was cheating on tests.

Elaine bolted to Madeline's room. There she heard Madeline crying. She admitted to listening to Elaine's conversation with her mother. They talked for hours and Madeline explained that she did not mean any harm. She was only trying to get people to like her as much as they liked Elaine.

Adapted from: *Comprehension Connections*.

1. Which twin was smarter? Support your answer with evidence from the passage.

Elaine because she was the president of the 4H Club

Madeline because she maintained a straight A average

Elaine because she was a school prefect

Madeline because she was Head Girl

2. What happened that caused Elaine to feel something was wrong. Select two answers.

When her mother spoke to her.

The students became quiet when she approaches the group.

Some of the students were staring at her.

Elaine is a B average student.

3. Why did Madeline spread the rumor?

Someone dared her to start a rumor

Everyone was talking about Elaine, so she just joined in.

She wanted people to like her as much as they liked Elaine.

Madeline did not like Elaine.

4. Madeline called Elaine **egotistical**. What does **egotistical** mean?

To exaggerate

To only be concerned about oneself

Angry

To not tell the truth

5. What was the lie that Madeline told?

6. Quote the sentence from Paragraph 4 that tells Elaine was having rapid thoughts.

7. Select the best answer. "Elaine bolted to Madeline's room: Shows that she was

afraid

angry

tired

excited

8. How did the girls solve the problem?

They talked for hours, and Madeline explained that she did not mean any harm.

They didn't solve the problem.

Their mom spoke with them.

There was never a problem between the girls.