



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Rocket Into Reading****Directions:** Read the passage and then read each question. Bubble the circle beside the correct answer.**Trouble in the Dugout**

1 I charge into the catcher with all my might as I reach home base. The two of us go down in a tangle of limbs but he breaks my fall. I roll over into the dirt to find the umpire standing over me. "You're out!"

2 What?! No! I slowly get to my feet and stumble away as the catcher proudly raises his mitt. I stop just inside the dugout, beside the cooler, so I'm as far away from the bench – and my teammates – as possible. I'm in no mood for either their disappointment or their pity.

3 I have just taken my first sip of Gatorade when Dean stomps toward me. He slaps the cup from my hand, grabs my collar and slams me against the wall.

4 "Gatorade is for winners," Dean barks, "and you're certainly not one, Josh!"

5 "Dean, come on, we all...have...off days." My best friend Bianca's voice trails off as Dean glares her into silence.

6 I'm four inches shorter and twenty pounds lighter than Dean, but I'm over his pigheadedness. When I look around; I realize I'm not alone; most of my fellow Bulldogs clearly disapprove of Dean's actions. I glare back at Dean. "Winners also don't bully their own teammates," I respond and tear his hands from my shirt. I turn to the others. "We can still win this, everyone. If you're with me, say 'Bulldogs!'"

7 My ears ring with their chants of, "Bulldogs! Bulldogs! Bulldogs!"



1. In paragraph 2, why does the catcher raise his mitt?

- ☐ (A) to signal to the pitcher  
☐ (B) to show everyone he has caught the ball  
☐ (C) to shield his eyes from the sun  
☐ (D) to wave to people in the stands

2. Why does Josh stop beside the cooler?

- ☐ (A) He is thirsty.  
☐ (B) The cooler is close to their bench.  
☐ (C) He wants to be as far away from the umpire as possible.  
☐ (D) It is an excuse to avoid his teammates.

3. **Onomatopoeia** is a form of figurative language in which a word imitates a sound. For example, *crunch* and *plop* sound similar to the real-life sounds those words describe. Which of the following words from paragraph 3 is **not** an example of onomatopoeia?

- ☐ (A) stomps ☐ (B) grabs  
☐ (C) slaps ☐ (D) slams

4. Why does it matter that Josh is 4 inches shorter and 20 pounds lighter than Dean?

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5. In what ways might the other Bulldogs have shown Dean their disapproval?

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