

Realistic Fiction Practice #1

Student's name: _____.

Direction: Read the following text and answer the questions below.

Ready, Set, Invent!

“I can’t believe the Young Inventors’ National Competition is tomorrow!” Marina said. “I hope I’m ready.”

“Well, you’ve worked hard, and you have a great invention,” her dad said. “I think you’re more than ready.”

Marina scooped up her invention, the Scoreball, from its stand. She had invented it to solve the problem of keeping score during fast-moving basketball games.

The Scoreball recorded points whenever it dropped through the hoop. It stopped arguments and made playing more fun for Marina and her friends.

Marina had come in first with the Scoreball at other events, but there was a lot more at stake with the national competition. The top prize was a college scholarship.

Marina knew that it would be a battle. Another inventor named Dana Dutcher had won plenty of awards with her own invention. Tomorrow they would meet and compete, face-to-face.

Meanwhile, Dana Dutcher helped tie the shoes of her triplet brothers. Soon, her family would be piling in the van for the long drive to the Young Inventors’ National Competition.

She gave each of her little brothers a high five. “I owe you guys,” she said. “You gave me the idea for the Zipper-Zapper in the first place.”

Last winter, Dana’s teacher had told the class to think of a problem and an invention that would solve it. Every morning, Dana had watched her brothers struggling to zip their own coats. Because of them, she designed a magnetic zipper starter that made zipping easier for little hands. The Zipper-Zapper had worked.

It had racked up awards, too, but the national competition was different. The top prize was a college scholarship that Dana didn’t just want to win. She needed to win it. Dana had read about the inventor she was up against. Marina Moore and her Scoreball had her worried.

Answer the questions about the text above.

- 1.** Describe the main character(s) in the story. How realistic are they?

- 2.** Describe the plot of the story. Do you feel this is a realistic plot? Why/why not?

- 3.** This story does not have much of a setting. Work with a family member or friend to describe what the author could do to give this a realistic setting.

- 4.** Explain why this story is a good example of realistic fiction?

- 5.** What kind of point of view you can identify here? Explain why.