Vocabulary Skill Check

Grade 6 · Shades of meaning · Try 2

Name or code _____ Date _____

Read each passage. Circle the letter that gives the best meaning in that passage.

Passage 1

The community newsletter featured a student who had organized a successful book exchange. During the interview, the reporter asked what had made the event work. The interview took place at a table near the front entrance of the library.

She accepted that her planning had helped but gave credit to the other volunteers instead of praising herself as the only reason for success.

The reporter took a photograph beside the exchange shelves. The newsletter would also include a list of upcoming activities for families in the area. The reporter remembered the organizer's **modest** reply while writing the account.

1. As used in this passage, what does the word "modest" most likely mean?

Circle ONE letter.

A eager to claim all the credit

B accepting success without boasting

C convinced that no useful contribution was made

D ashamed to speak with other people

Passage 2

A school newsletter summarized a debate about changing the lunch schedule. The article was **neutral**.

The editor asked a reporter to describe the two proposals for readers. The article appeared beside a photograph of the cafeteria on the newsletter's second page near the calendar.

It explained both positions fairly without favoring either side or trying to persuade readers to choose one of them.

The newsletter also listed the date of the next council meeting. Printed copies were placed in classrooms and near the main school entrance that morning.

2. As used in this passage, what does the word "neutral" most likely mean?

Circle ONE letter.

A avoiding every detail about the disagreement

B supporting whichever side is more popular

C fair to both sides without favoring either

D unable to understand either position

Passage 3

A student team planned a community display using a small grant. Its report explained how the team had chosen materials and arranged the spending.

The report described the team as **frugal**. A list of workshop dates appeared on the final page beside the acknowledgments.

Members avoided waste, repaired usable stands, and saved money for necessary supplies without leaving any part of the display unfinished.

The team presented its work at a public meeting. Afterward, visitors could ask questions about the photographs and models placed around the meeting room.

3. As used in this passage, what does the word “frugal” most likely mean?

Circle ONE letter.

A economical while still providing what is needed

B generous mainly to impress other people

C careless about the cost of purchases

D unwilling to spend anything even when necessary

Passage 4

The history club received a photograph that supposedly showed the school’s first sports team. The label had been added recently by an unknown person. The group examined the photograph in the library during its regular lunch meeting.

Mateo asked for an older source to support the date before accepting the claim, although he remained willing to be convinced.

The librarian placed the photograph in a protective sleeve. Club members would meet again after school to plan the rest of their anniversary display for visitors. Mateo remained **skeptical** about the date label while waiting for that other source.

4. As used in this passage, what does the word “skeptical” most likely mean?

Circle ONE letter.

A convinced mainly by an attractive presentation

B questioning whether evidence supports a claim

C certain that every unfamiliar claim is false

D uninterested in finding out the truth

Passage 5

The theater group listened to a rehearsal recording before its final performance. The director called the sound technician's latest change **subtle**.

The sound technician had changed the music beneath the opening scene. The speakers stood on a shelf near the rear wall of the classroom.

The new sound was only slightly softer and warmer, so listeners sensed a different mood without immediately noticing what had changed.

After listening, the actors collected their scripts from a table. The group planned to rehearse the final scene before the end of the afternoon practice.

5. As used in this passage, what does the word "subtle" most likely mean?

Circle ONE letter.

A slight but able to influence the mood

B completely absent from the finished work

C impossible for anyone to understand

D so dramatic that it dominates everything else

Passage 6

The newspaper editor asked Rowan to choose a photograph for the front page. Several pictures were available from the same community event.

The photographs were spread across a table in the school library after the final lesson. Rowan made a **deliberate** choice.

He compared what each picture communicated and selected one for a clear reason, rather than simply taking the first image he saw.

The editor thanked the photographers in the next issue. Copies of the newspaper would be available beside the main office for students and visitors on Friday morning.

6. As used in this passage, what does the word "deliberate" most likely mean?

Circle ONE letter.

A changed repeatedly without considering a reason

B slow only because the task is not understood

C accidental and unrelated to any plan

D made thoughtfully rather than by chance

Teacher use: ____ / 6