b. I can explain how the author develops the point of view of the story.

c. I can analyze how word choice contributes to the meaning of a text.

d. I can describe how a plot unfolds as the plot moves toward a resolution.

 I can describe how a character responds or changes as a plot moves toward a resolution.

Using appropriate text, I can determine the theme(s) of a text, and cite evidence of its development; summarize the text.

**A Class Election**

Manny Soto could pinpoint the exact moment when nervousness turned his stomach upside down. The campaign for sixth-grade class president had just begun to heat up, spreading a contagious election fever through the middle school. This year the school principal had encouraged each student to get involved in some way -- from taking polls to designing posters for the candidates. Manny decided to go for the gold, becoming one of four students to run for class president at the middle school.

His trouble began when the candidates presented their speeches at a school assembly. As a result of a random drawing, Darius Johnson spoke first. Darius was all about sports, so he proposed building new bleachers and cutting back on athletic fees with the help of the school administration.

Next up was Antonio Rizzi, whose speech made the audience feel like they were at a comedy club. The comic relief was entertaining, but no one seemed to take Antonio very seriously.

Then, Julia Thomas stepped up to the microphone and Manny listened to her proposals: Keep the library open longer after school…Work with the School Committee on reducing class size…Launch a homework center…. It was as if she'd read *his* speech, Manny thought as he walked to the podium. Delivering his speech as written, he emphasized the one idea that Julia hadn't already mentioned -- more healthy food choices on the school menu.

When the audience began to ask the candidates probing questions, the first went to Manny. "Can you explain the difference between your proposal and Julia's?" asked a student.

"Well...ah...that's a good question," Manny stalled. "Actually, Julia and I agree on many things, but the difference is I know how to get things done. I'm the one who can put those ideas into practice." Manny put such a good spin on it that he almost convinced himself his words were true.

During the next few days, Manny worried from noon to night. So did his campaign manager, Coral. "We need a strategy," she said one day, "or we're toast."

"Maybe not," said Manny, as an idea suddenly popped into his head. "Let's take a poll of all sixth-grade students to see who would win the election if it were held today. It'll help us figure out where we stand. Plus, we can use the data for our math project!"

As they worked on writing questions for the poll, Manny began to feel some of the old excitement flowing back. That excitement lasted until they tallied the poll results. Darius had earned 32% of the votes, Antonio 11%, Julia 25%, and Manny 28% with 4% of students undecided. Less than a week remained until Election Day.

"Second place so far," said Coral.

"Not too shabby. But we've got some work to do to earn those extra votes we need," said Manny, "so let's hear some ideas."

The clock ticked as Manny's campaign staffers threw balls of wadded-up paper into the trash. Coral was scrutinizing the poll results, scanning them over and over again.

"Wait a minute!" Coral exclaimed. "Do you realize what this poll tells us? Look! If you evaluate the numbers, you'll see that Antonio or Julia's percentage combined with ours equals victory! Maybe one of them would agree to run as your co-president!"

Everyone was dashing for the door when suddenly it opened, and in walked Julia Thomas.

"Hey, Manny," she said. "I think we need to talk."

1. Part A

What is the main theme of the passage?

1. Treat others how you want to be treated.
2. Set goals and follow through with effort.
3. It's normal to feel nervous before a big win.
4. Good students are involved in their schools.

Part B

Select TWO sentences from the passage that help develop the theme identified in Part A.

1. This year the school principal had encouraged each student to get involved in some way -- from taking polls to designing posters for the
2. Manny Soto could pinpoint the exact moment when nervousness turned his stomach upside down.
3. During the next few days, Manny worried from noon to night.
4. Manny decided to go for the gold, becoming one of four students to run for class president.
5. "But we've got some work to do to earn those extra votes we need," said Manny, "so let's hear some ideas."

2. Read the following sentence from the passage.

Coral was scrutinizing the poll results, scanning them over and over again.

What is the meaning of the word "scrutinizing" as it is used in this sentence?

1. examining
2. ignoring
3. counting
4. Charting

3. Read the following paragraph from the passage.

"Well...ah...that's a good question," Manny stalled. "Actually, Julia and I agree on many things, but the difference is I know how to get things

done. I'm the one who can put those ideas into practice." Manny put such a good spin on it that he almost convinced himself his words were true.

How does this paragraph contribute to the meaning of the passage?

1. It helps the reader understand that Manny and Julia agree on everything.
2. It helps the reader know how hard Manny has worked to win the election.
3. It helps the reader understand that Manny is trying to appear confident, but in reality, he is nervous.
4. It helps the reader know that the election has put Manny and Julia's friendship in danger.

4. How did Manny respond when Julia delivered a speech that was very similar to his just before it was his turn to speak?

1. He became upset and threw balls of wadded-up paper into the trash can.
2. He decided to change his speech at the last minute.
3. He delivered his original speech, emphasizing one idea Julia didn't mention.
4. He scrutinized the results of the poll to see if Julia might win the election.

5 Part A

Which statement best reflects the narrator’s point of view in the passage?

1. The narrator helps explain Antonio Rizzi’s thoughts and feelings.
2. The narrator helps explain Darius Johnson’s thoughts and feelings.
3. The narrator helps explain Julia Thomas’s thoughts and feelings.
4. The narrator helps explain Manny Soto's thoughts and feelings.

5. Part B

Choose TWO of the following sentences from the passage that best support your answer to Part A.

1. "Actually, Julia and I agree on many things, but the difference is I know how to get things done. I'm the one who can put those ideas into practice."
2. Then, Julia Thomas stepped up to the microphone and Manny listened to her proposals: Keep the library open longer after school…
3. During the next few days, Manny worried from noon to night.
4. Next up was Antonio Rizzi, whose speech made the audience feel like they were at a comedy club.
5. Coral was scrutinizing the poll results, scanning them over and over again.

6.



|  | Letter  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | A |
| 2 | E |
| 3 | D |
| 4 | C |
| 5 | B |

1. Manny decided to go for the gold, becoming one of four students to run for class president at the middle school.
2. "Do you realize what this poll tells us? Look! If you evaluate the numbers, you'll see that Antonio or Julia's percentage combined with ours equals victory! Maybe one of them would agree to run as your co-president!"
3. Darius had earned 32% of the votes, Antonio 11%, Julia 25%, and Manny 28% with 4% of students undecided.
4. "Well...ah...that's a good question," Manny stalled. "Actually, Julia and I agree on many things, but the difference is I know how to get things done. I'm the one who can put those ideas into practice."
5. His trouble began when the candidates presented their speeches at a school assembly.