**Shawn the Speedy Snail**

Character Response Assessment

Shawn was a snail unlike any other snail in the ditch. All of the snails that Shawn knew were slow. They were slow to get food, slow to get water, slow to get anywhere. The snails of Shawn’s ditch were so slow because they each had huge shells on their backs that they had to carry around. The shells were heavy, but they had to be because the shells were the snails’ homes! Certainly, Shawn had a shell on his back too, just like all the others. He even named it “Shawn’s Place.” He was funny like that, and the snails enjoyed his sense of humor. What made Shawn so fast was that he was stronger than everyone else. Having his home on his back didn’t bother him like it did the others in Shawn’s ditch. The others would complain and sigh, so depressed that they had such a weight to carry on their shoulders and backs. Because Shawn was the strongest, and could carry his home with ease, he was also the fastest, making Shawn the speediest snail around.

From the time Shawn was a baby snail, he could beat any of the snails he knew in the ditch in a race. He grew up challenging each snail to a race, and he was undefeated. Shawn started using his speed for his benefit and his benefit only, though, which was something he would later regret. Anytime there was a leaf that fell to the ground, Shawn would race to it and eat until he got full before anyone else would get the chance. If it rained, and puddles of water formed at the bottom of the ditch, Shawn drank and drank all he needed, right in front of all his friends and family, who were slowly gathering at the pools. It was almost as if Shawn was showing off how strong and fast he was all the time. The other snails liked Shawn, but the way he used his speed was making them angry.

After some time, when the other snails became particularly hungry because Shawn was beating them to all the food, the snails in the ditch decided that enough was enough.

“Shawn! Stop eating so much before we can have our helping,” cried Blaine.

“Yeah, Shawn! We know you’re big and strong and fast,” agreed Susan. “You don’t have to keep reminding us about how slow we are,” she added.

Shawn was a little upset about their remarks. “Well, maybe if you would exercise a little bit more, you could beat me to the food and the water!” he said.

“How can we become stronger if you keep beating us to our food?” replied Harvey.

“We all think it’s about time you found another ditch, one that you can have all to yourself,” said Blaine.

That hurt Shawn. He felt a knot in his heart. Slowly, as slowly as he’d ever crawled before, he left the ditch for another place to find food and water.

He knew that there was another ditch across the road that was completely empty of other snails. Shawn was the only one who knew that because he was the only one capable of getting across the road safely, with his speed and all.

A couple of weeks went by. Shawn missed his friends across the road, and he realized that his ditch had even more food than the other, much more than he’d ever need. He decided he’d pay them a visit. He waited by the side of the road for the closest car to pass. Once it did, he speedily crossed back over to his old ditch. What he found made him more upset than anything ever before.

“Shawn!” cried Blaine. “We need your help. There isn’t enough food in this ditch anymore. We’re too weak and too slow to find enough for all of us to eat.”

Shawn’s friends were starving. Even though they had asked him to leave the ditch, it was only because of his selfish actions. Shawn knew what the right thing to do would be.

One-by-one, Shawn lifted each of his snail friends up on top of Shawn’s Place and as fast as he could, which, for Shawn, was pretty fast, brought them over to the ditch on the other side of the road. They were all safe and sound, especially after Shawn raced around the ditch getting food and bringing it straight to his weaker friends. Shawn would never use his speed to show off again.

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| 4RL.1 | I can read closely to answer literal questions using explicit information and draw inferences using predictions.  1 2 3 |
| 4.RL.3 | I can use specific events and ideas from the text and **prior knowledge** to explain why something happened in the text.  1 2 3 |
| Short-Constructed Response | I can answer the question clearly with sufficient evidence that explains my reasoning.  1 2 3 |

1. What character trait best describes Shawn at the **end** of the story?
   1. Helpful
   2. Lazy
   3. A Boy
   4. Selfish

Provide evidence from the text to explain your answer.

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**4.RL.1**

2. Which character action best supports Shawn’s character trait at the **beginning**?

* 1. Shawn is unable to help himself.
  2. Shawn was beating them to all the food.
  3. Shawn wanted to leave the ditch.
  4. Shawn was stronger than the other snails.

Explain your answer.

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**4.RL.3**

**Davy Is Absent**

“Can anyone tell me where Davy is?” Miss Mason asks.

“I saw Davy last night,” says Lily. “My family went to his house for pizza.”

“But today his seat is empty. Marcus, maybe you know where your twin brother is. Can you tell the class where Davy is?”

“Certainly, Miss Mason. Easy as pie,” says Marcus. “Davy is here in class.”

The classroom bursts into laughter.

“We can all see Davy’s seat is empty, Marcus. Davy must be absent.”

“You may be right, Miss Mason,” says Marcus. “But maybe not.”

“How odd,” says Miss Mason, but she begins the lesson anyway. The class has a math exam at the end of the week, and there is a lot of material to review.

Later in the lesson, Miss Mason becomes more and more suspicious and asks, “If there are twenty-seven students and twenty-eight chairs in a classroom, how many chairs are there for every student? Marcus, since you’re so good at math, would you please answer?”

“Certainly! Easy as pie. Every student has one chair. Sure as my name’s Marcus!”

“You may be right,” Miss Mason smiles. “But maybe not.” Miss Mason knew that she was being tricked and wanted to teach the “prankster” a lesson.

It’s recess. Marcus walks by Ella who is talking with Miss Mason. Ella says, “Say Marcus, where’s your brother really? I know he isn’t playing hooky because Davy never lies. Is he sick?”

“No sicker than you, Ella. No sicker than Miss Mason, either.”

“I’d say there is something odd going on!” says Ella. “Wouldn’t you say so, Miss Mason?”

“Odd indeed, Ella. Sure as my name’s Miss Mason” said as she crossed her arms and raised her eyebrows.

When the class came in from recess, Miss Mason decided that it was time to put a stop to the prank. “Next, we’ll practice a word problem.”

Miss Mason reads the word problem: “Papa has cut the pizza so that everyone will get an even-sized slice. There are four members of Papa’s family, and five members of the family Papa invited over. But before dinnertime, the two naughty brothers steal the pizza and split the whole thing between them. How many slices do the two brothers each eat?”

“Marcus, since you’re so good at math,” says Miss Mason, “maybe you’d like to show the class how to solve the problem.”

“Certainly. Easy as pie! Four members of my family plus five members of Lily’s family means nine people altogether, nine slices of pizza. Now, nine slices of pizza between my brother and me means we each get…Uh…We each get…” Marcus’ face turns red.

“You see,” says Miss Mason,” nine is an odd number and so it cannot be evenly divided between two people. One of the brothers must have had four slices of pizza, while the other one had five. The one who ate five is sick. Perhaps that is why he is absent from class.”

“You’re wrong! Davy only ate four slices,” he shouts realizing Miss Mason had realized he was pretending to be Marcus all along.

“Precisely!” says Ella. “Marcus ate five slices. Marcos is absent. You’ve been tricking us all along! You’re Davy. Marcos is good at math. He must’ve known that nine divided by two is four and one half. He let you think it was four, so that he could eat five slices. Davy, one thing for sure is that you’re always honest. You said, ‘Davy is in class,’ and ‘Davy isn’t sick.’ You never once lied. That’s how I knew it was you.”

“It’s true!” cries Davy. “It’s all true! If I had only been better at fractions, Marcus and I would have eaten the same amount, and poor Marcus wouldn’t be sick. It’s my fault Marcus is absent. If only I had been better with fractions,” Davy laughed.

He knew that playing a joke on the class was not the best idea.

1. Which event lead to Marcus missing school?
   1. Marcus wanted to play a trick on his teacher.
   2. Marcus was upset he missed the bus.
   3. Marcus was sick from the flu.
   4. Marcus got sick from eating too much pizza.

Use evidence from the text to explain your answer to question #1.

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**4.RL.1**

1. Which detail is NOT supported by the MAIN setting of the story?
   1. Lily stated that Davy came over for dinner last night.
   2. Davy’s seat was empty because he was absent.
   3. Miss Mason asked Marcus about his brother at recess.
   4. The classroom burst out in laughter.

Use evidence from the text to explain your answer to question #2.

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**4.RL.3**

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