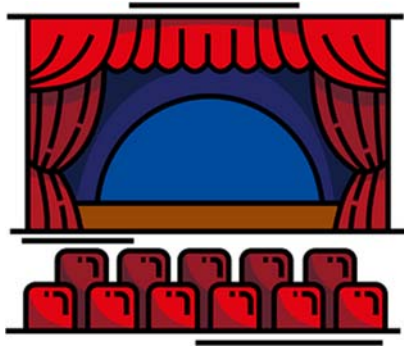


Name _____



Curtain Call Lesson

Directions: Read the passage carefully. Think about what life lesson or message the author is trying to show. Choose the **one theme** from the four options that best fits the passage. Remember: a theme is a **general lesson or idea**, not just a detail from the story.

The Empty Stage

Jordan dreamed of being part of the school play, but he was shy about performing in front of others. When auditions arrived, he nearly walked away, but his best friend encouraged him to try.

Jordan read his lines nervously, expecting to fail, yet the teacher smiled and asked him to stay for a second round. Over the next weeks, Jordan practiced each afternoon, stumbling at first but slowly gaining confidence.

On opening night, his voice shook at the beginning, but soon he found himself lost in the role. The audience applauded loudly when the curtain closed, and Jordan realized he had overcome his greatest fear. Though he did not get the lead role, he knew he had achieved something more important: courage.

What is the **central theme** of this passage?

- A) Friendship is the only way to succeed in school.
- B) Hard work and courage can help overcome fear.
- C) Everyone should try to become a famous actor.
- D) School plays are the most important events of the year.