

Name _____

Inferring a Character's Emotions

Passage

Marcus sat at the dinner table, his fork moving the peas around his plate in slow circles. The voices of his family floated around him-his sister laughing, his father asking about someone's day-but Marcus didn't respond. His jaw tightened as he stared at the food. He reached for his glass, then set it down without taking a sip. His mother's hand lightly touched his shoulder, but he flinched and shifted away. "I'm not hungry," he mumbled, pushing his chair back and walking out of the room.



Questions

1. How does Marcus's behavior at the table show how he might be feeling?
2. What emotion or emotions do you think Marcus is experiencing? Give at least one piece of evidence.
3. What do you think is going on in Marcus's thoughts during this scene?
4. Why do you think Marcus flinched when his mother touched his shoulder?
5. What do you infer about the relationship between Marcus and the rest of his family from this passage?