

Inferring a Character's Emotions Answer Key

1. **How does Marcus's behavior at the table show how he might be feeling?**
– He's silent, avoids eye contact, and doesn't eat—these are signs of emotional withdrawal or sadness.

2. **What emotion or emotions do you think Marcus is experiencing? Give at least one piece of evidence.**
– He might be feeling upset, angry, or emotionally hurt. The evidence: his jaw tightening and not participating in the conversation.

3. **What do you think is going on in Marcus's thoughts during this scene?**
– He might be thinking about something that's bothering him, possibly feeling misunderstood or disconnected from his family.

4. **Why do you think Marcus flinched when his mother touched his shoulder?**
– It could mean he didn't want comfort or physical contact, or he might be feeling overwhelmed emotionally.

5. **What do you infer about the relationship between Marcus and the rest of his family from this passage?**
– His family seems to care (his mother tries to comfort him), but Marcus is not ready to open up, suggesting a gap in communication or emotional distance.