

Name _____

Insights Patrol

Passage

Darren waited by the library steps long after the bell had rung. Students trickled past, heading home in groups, laughing and talking. Darren shifted his backpack and checked his phone again. Nothing. He sat down on the bottom step and pulled his hood over his head as the sky darkened. A few minutes later, a teacher passed by and gave him a questioning look.



“Everything okay, Darren?”

“Yeah,” he said quickly, eyes on his shoes. “Just waiting.”

The teacher nodded and walked on, but Darren didn’t move. Finally, he stood up, sighed, and started walking in the opposite direction from the usual bus route.

Questions

1. What can we tell about Darren’s emotional state in this scene? Use at least one piece of evidence.
2. What does Darren’s response to the teacher suggest about what he wants others to think?
3. Why is it significant that Darren walks in the opposite direction from the bus stop?
4. What insight do you have about Darren’s situation or relationships, based on the text? Support your answer with evidence.
5. How does the setting (library steps after school, darkening sky) help us understand Darren’s inner feelings?