

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Explaining a Character's Motivations



**Directions:** Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions based on what motivated the character to act.

### Passage

Maria stood backstage, holding her speech in shaking hands. She had signed up for the public speaking contest weeks ago when she was feeling confident. But now, with the crowd waiting, she felt nervous. She could quit—no one would blame her. But Maria thought of her younger sister, who always looked up to her. She took a deep breath and walked onto the stage, her voice trembling at first but growing stronger as she spoke.

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### Questions

1. What internal conflict is Maria facing in this passage?  

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2. What motivates Maria to go through with the speech despite her fear?
  - a) She wants the prize money
  - b) She doesn't want to waste her work
  - c) She wants to impress her sister
  - d) She doesn't want to let her sister down
3. Explain Maria's motivation using your own words.  

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4. What line in the passage best shows her motivation?  

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5. How might Maria feel after giving the speech, based on her motivation?