

Name _____



Noticing Nuances

Directions: Read the passage carefully. Reread and **highlight or underline any surprising, unusual, or contradictory details** (when a character does or says something unexpected, or the description shifts suddenly). Answer the questions below, using evidence from the text to explain why the contrast or contradiction matters.

Remember: noticing contrasts and contradictions helps uncover deeper meaning about character, theme, or conflict.

Passage (Adapted, Original)

The sunlit garden was alive with color, roses climbing over the fence and butterflies darting from bloom to bloom. Ella walked slowly along the path, her shoulders hunched and her eyes fixed on the ground. Though the air smelled sweet and warm, she pulled her jacket tighter, as if bracing against a chill. When her neighbor called out cheerfully, "Lovely day, isn't it?" Ella forced a quick smile but did not stop walking. Inside, she carried a heaviness that did not match the brightness around her.

1. What is one contrast between the setting and Ella's mood?

2. Which moment in the passage feels contradictory to the cheerful tone of the garden?

3. What might Ella's reaction to her neighbor reveal about her internal state?

4. How does the contrast between the world outside and Ella's feelings inside point to a possible theme?
