

Name _____



Character Compass

Directions: Read the passage carefully, paying attention to what the character **thinks, does, and says**. Consider what these details reveal about the character's personality, struggles, or values. Answer the questions, citing specific words or lines from the text as evidence. Remember: your goal is to look *through the character's lens* to discover deeper meaning.

Passage (Adapted, Original)

The bus rumbled to a stop, and Alex hesitated before stepping down. He glanced at the crumpled acceptance letter in his hand, its edges worn from being read too many times. The new school loomed ahead, windows reflecting the bright morning sun. *"You can do this,"* he muttered under his breath, though his hands trembled as he shoved the letter into his pocket. When another student brushed past him with a cheerful wave, Alex forced a smile and followed, his pace quickening despite the knot in his stomach.

1. What do Alex's actions (hesitating, shoving the letter in his pocket) reveal about how he feels?

2. How do Alex's words (*"You can do this"*) deepen our understanding of his state of mind?

3. What does the detail about the "crumpled acceptance letter" suggest about Alex's journey so far?

4. Based on his thoughts, actions, and words, what larger theme about courage or change might Alex's experience point to?
