

Hidden Meaning Check Answer Key

1. Check. Mira is pretending to compliment but actually judging the project.
2. No check. A straightforward request.
3. Check. Rowan means the opposite and is annoyed.
4. No check. A sincere compliment.
5. Check. Marcus is hurt and does not want them to go ahead without him.
6. No check. Naomi is giving neutral information.
7. Check. Theo is irritated, not impressed.
8. Check. Harper cares but does not want to admit a preference.
9. Check. Gavin actually needs help but refuses to admit it.
10. No check. Riley is simply thankful.

Teacher's Guide

Focus Skill: Understanding **subtext** in dialogue, where characters imply meaning rather than state it directly.

Teaching Tips

- Explain that subtext is the **unstated meaning** behind a character's words.
- Encourage students to look for tone clues, context hints, and contradictions between words and actions.
- Model reading a line aloud in different tones to reveal hidden meaning.

Differentiation

- Give students a list of signal phrases that often hint at subtext, such as *"If you want"*, *"I don't care"*, *"Sure, whatever"*.
- For students who need support, pair them with a partner to discuss each item before choosing.

Engagement Ideas

- Have students rewrite one of the dialogues showing the *true meaning* openly to compare direct vs implied speech.
- Let students perform two versions of the same line: one literal, one full of subtext.