

## Understanding Deeper Character Motivations



**Instructions:** Read each passage carefully. Then answer the questions that follow by drawing a conclusion based on a full understanding of the characters and events.

**Passage 1** - Derek sat silently at the dinner table, pushing peas around his plate. His parents were deep in conversation, but he didn't join in. When they asked how his day went, he shrugged. Later, in his room, he pulled out a crumpled test paper from his backpack, marked with a red 52%.

**1. What conclusion can you draw about why Derek is acting distant?**

- a) He is tired from school.
- b) He had a fight with a friend.
- c) He is upset about his failing grade.
- d) He doesn't like peas.

**Passage 2** - Natalie spent weeks preparing for the school play. She memorized her lines, helped paint the set, and practiced with the cast every day. On opening night, the auditorium lights dimmed and the curtain rose. But Natalie's parents weren't in the audience. She stared at the empty seats in the front row as the spotlight found her.

**2. What can you conclude about how Natalie might feel?**

- a) Nervous about her lines
- b) Happy to perform
- c) Disappointed and let down
- d) Excited for her friends to see her

**Passage 3** - Mr. Ellis assigned the group project three weeks ago. On presentation day, Caleb brought a full slideshow and note cards. His group partner, Lucas, showed up with nothing prepared. After they presented, Mr. Ellis gave them both the same grade. Caleb's jaw tightened, and he avoided eye contact with Lucas.

**3. What can you conclude about how Caleb feels?**

- a) He is proud of the teamwork.
- b) He is angry that Lucas didn't do his part.
- c) He is embarrassed about his own work.
- d) He is nervous about another group project.

**Passage 4** - Amira watched the young girl in front of her struggle to reach the top shelf. Without hesitation, Amira grabbed the cereal box the girl wanted and handed it to her. The girl's mother smiled and said, "Thank you," as Amira turned to walk away.

**4. What can you conclude about Amira's character?**

- a) She likes shopping alone.
- b) She is impatient in stores.
- c) She is helpful and observant.
- d) She works at the store.