

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## True Connections

**Directions:** Read the nonfiction excerpts below about teens reflecting on supportive friendships. Then answer the comprehension and critical-thinking questions that follow.

### Excerpt 1: "Standing by Me"

"When I transferred to a new high school halfway through the year, I felt invisible. People already had their groups, and I didn't know where I fit. Then Jordan, who sat next to me in English, started talking to me about our favorite books. He introduced me to his friends, and by the end of the month, I wasn't eating lunch alone anymore. It made me realize that friendship isn't about popularity-it's about kindness and consistency."

### Excerpt 2: "Listening Without Judgment"

"My best friend, Riya, was the first person I ever told about my anxiety. I thought she might think differently of me, but she just listened. She didn't try to fix everything; she just cared. That moment showed me that real friends don't need perfect answers-they just need open hearts."

### Comprehension and Critical-Thinking Questions

1. What made Jordan's actions meaningful to the writer in the first excerpt?
2. How did Riya show support for her friend in the second excerpt?
3. Both teens learned lessons about friendship. What are those lessons?
4. What qualities do you think make a person a supportive friend? Give two examples from the excerpts.
5. Reflect on your own life: How can you be a better friend to someone who may feel alone or stressed?