



Name _____

Tapping Worry

Directions: Read the passage carefully. Notice details about the character's actions, surroundings, and body language. Use these clues to infer deeper meanings: what's happening, how the character feels, and what is not directly stated. Answer the questions thoughtfully, supporting your inferences with evidence from the text.

The Hospital Room

Ethan sat in the hard plastic chair, his back pressed against the cold wall. He hadn't spoken in over an hour. The steady beep of the monitor filled the silence, punctuated only by the occasional shuffle of nurses in the hallway. Ethan's phone buzzed in his hand, but he didn't look at it—he only glanced down briefly, then back at the still figure lying in the bed. His jaw tightened as he shifted in his seat, one foot tapping the floor without rhythm. The clock on the wall ticked forward, but Ethan remained motionless, his eyes fixed on the patient's pale face.

1. What can you infer about Ethan's relationship to the person in the hospital bed? Give evidence from the text.
2. How do Ethan's actions (e.g., not answering his phone, sitting silently) suggest his emotional state?
3. What details in the passage help you infer the seriousness of the situation?
4. Why do you think Ethan's foot is tapping on the floor without rhythm? What might this reveal about his inner thoughts or feelings?
5. Imagine you are Ethan's friend walking into the room. Write two sentences of what you *think* he is feeling but not saying out loud.