

## Curtain Clues Answer Key

1. Maya is nervous/anxious.

- Clues: She grips the script tightly, avoids eye contact, taps her foot rapidly, and sighs heavily afterward.

2. She wants to appear confident to the teacher and other students.

Another option: She may fear that showing nerves will hurt her chances of being chosen for the play.

3. The sigh and concern about messing up show she deeply cares about doing well. It matters to her, likely because she values theater or wants the role badly.

4. Jordan thinks she looks confident, but readers know from the text that Maya is nervous. This shows her outward calmness hid her true feelings.

5. Possible accurate answers:

- She may feel disappointed but keep trying for future plays, since she clearly cares about theater.
- She might practice more to improve, showing perseverance.
- She could lean on Jordan's encouragement to boost her confidence.

### Teacher Notes:

- **Skill emphasis:** Students should support inferences with text evidence.
- **Look for reasoning:** Answers that include both the inference *and* the specific clue from the story are strongest.
- **Extension idea:** Have students rewrite the audition scene from Jordan's point of view, highlighting how an outside perspective can miss inner feelings.