Name _____



Unspoken Rivalry

Directions: Read the passage carefully. Look for subtle clues: tone, gestures, or actions that hint at a conflict between characters. Write down the conflict you believe exists, even if it is not directly stated. Support your answers with text evidence.

Sophie slid her science project onto the display table just as Marcus walked by. "Interesting choice," he said with a smile that didn't quite reach his eyes. Sophie adjusted the neatly labeled charts and ignored his comment, though her cheeks flushed. Later, when the teacher announced that one project would be chosen for the regional fair, Marcus's hand shot up. "Will originality matter more than presentation?" he asked loudly, glancing at Sophie's poster. Sophie busied herself with her notes, refusing to look up. At the end of class, Marcus brushed past her, and Sophie muttered under her breath, "We'll see who's more original."

Questions:

1. What hidden conflict exists between Sophie and Marcus?

2. What clues suggest that Marcus might feel competitive or critical of Sophie?

3. How do Sophie's reactions reveal her side of the conflict?

4. If this tension continues, what could be a possible outcome?

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