

Infer This

Directions: Read each short passage carefully. Then, answer the questions that follow. Use clues from the text and your reasoning to draw logical inferences. Answers won't always be directly stated.



The Burnt Cookies - Lena sniffed the air and froze. A dark cloud was pouring from the kitchen. She dropped her sketchbook and bolted in. The oven timer was still ticking, but the smell was unmistakable. She yanked open the oven door and winced - a tray of once-round cookies now resembled charcoal hockey pucks.

Behind her, her little brother peeked around the corner. "You said you'd check them five minutes ago." Lena didn't reply.

Questions

1. What most likely happened to the cookies?
2. Why might Lena not have replied to her brother?
3. What does the phrase "once-round cookies now resembled charcoal hockey pucks" suggest?
4. What can we infer about Lena's attention before the smoke appeared?

The Trophy Shelf - Coach Thomas dusted off the top shelf and placed the new golden cup right in the center. His hand lingered on it a second longer than the others. A faded photo of a younger team smiled beside it. His own high school team, long before he'd ever thought about coaching.

One of the players peeked in. "You okay, Coach?"

Coach Thomas nodded slowly. "Just... proud."

Questions

1. Why does Coach Thomas place the new trophy in the center?
2. What does his lingering touch on the trophy imply?
3. What is the significance of the photo next to the trophies?
4. What emotions can be inferred from Coach's final statement?