

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Core Meaning Match

**Directions:** Read each passage carefully. Match each passage to the theme that best represents its overarching message. Use the same set of choices (A-H) for all passages. Write the letter of your answer on the line provided.

- A. Compassion - Caring for others shows empathy and kindness.
- B. Adventure - Seeking thrills brings excitement and discovery.
- C. Community Support - People grow stronger when they help one another.
- D. Independence - Relying only on yourself leads to success.
- E. Friendship - Acts of kindness can create lasting bonds.
- F. Curiosity - Wonder and questions inspire exploration.
- G. Perseverance - Hard work and persistence lead to achievement.
- H. Greed - Selfishness prevents true happiness.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. When Luis moved to a new town, he felt nervous about starting at a different school. At lunch, he sat alone until another student, Jonah, invited him to join his table. Over the next few weeks, they discovered a shared love of soccer and began practicing together after class. Luis was grateful to have someone who welcomed him and helped him feel at home. Their bond grew stronger each day, proving that a simple act of kindness could spark a lasting connection.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Nina practiced the piano every morning before school. Some days she grew frustrated when her fingers hit the wrong notes again and again. But she kept going, reminding herself of the recital at the end of the month. On the big day, she still felt nervous, yet her hard work paid off as she played her piece without a mistake. The audience clapped, and Nina realized that persistence had turned her dream into reality.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. The town faced its worst winter storm in years. Roads were blocked, power went out, and families struggled to stay warm. Neighbors checked on each other, sharing food, firewood, and blankets. One family even opened their home to those without heat. Though the storm brought hardship, it also reminded the town that they were stronger when they supported one another.

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Maya loved sketching birds in her notebook. One day, she spotted an injured sparrow outside her window. Instead of ignoring it, she carefully carried the bird to her father, who knew how to care for animals. Over the next week, Maya helped nurse the sparrow back to health. When the bird finally flew away, Maya felt proud knowing her compassion had made a difference.