

## Core Meaning Match Answer Key

- **Passage 1 → E (Friendship)**

*The theme centers on how a small act of kindness leads to a lasting bond.*

*Note: Students may confuse with A (Compassion), but the focus is not on caring for the injured — it's on forming a friendship.*

- **Passage 2 → G (Perseverance)**

*Nina's persistence through frustration and practice pays off at the recital.*

*Note: B (Adventure) or D (Independence) may distract, but the emphasis is on determination, not thrill-seeking or self-reliance.*

- **Passage 3 → C (Community Support)**

*Neighbors helping one another during a storm shows collective strength.*

*Note: D (Independence) is a tempting opposite, but the passage stresses cooperation, not going it alone.*

- **Passage 4 → A (Compassion)**

*Maya's care for the sparrow highlights empathy and kindness.*

*Note: F (Curiosity) may seem relevant since she likes birds, but the central theme is compassion, not exploration.*

**Unused distractors:** B (Adventure) and H (Greed).