

## Tension Burst Answer Key

Teachers should check for:

- A clear **high stakes conflict** involving the alarm, figure, or stolen case.
- Rising tension and urgency shown through pacing choices.
- Logical action sequence appropriate for Grades 8 to 12.
- A response that demonstrates conflict management or decision making under pressure.

There is no single correct answer. Focus on intensity, pacing, and clarity.

### Teacher's Guide

**Purpose:** This worksheet helps older students practice writing fast-paced, tension-driven scenes that hinge on conflict and quick decisions.

- Review what creates narrative tension: time pressure, danger, uncertainty, or a moral dilemma.
- Encourage students to start the story in the moment of action rather than slowly building up to it.
- Remind students to show urgency through short sentences, precise verbs, and quick shifts in action.

### Differentiation Tips:

- For students who need support: Provide a short list of prompts such as "I ran...", "I hesitated...", "I followed...", "I called...".
- For advanced writers: Challenge them to include a moment in which the main character must choose between two risky options.
- Offer a vocabulary bank with words like **urgent, rushed, echoed, shadow, darted, pursue, alert, case, pressure**.

### Engagement Ideas:

- Let students brainstorm in pairs what the metal case might contain but require them to choose their own idea for the writing.
- Encourage students to share one suspenseful sentence from their draft at the end.