

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## The Winner

I ran across the finish line and everybody cheered. The race was finally finished, and it was still drizzling outside. The rain was coming down very slowly, making it look as though we were trapped inside a giant cloud. I looked around at the other runners. They were all cold and tired and happy to be finished. Some people were giving out hot chocolate and it looked good so I decided to get myself a cup. The hot cup felt like fire in my frozen hands. After a while it cooled down, and slowly I drank. It tasted good.

Just then, someone touched my shoulder and I turned around to see that it was Genevieve.

"Good job!" she said enthusiastically.

"Thanks," I said, feeling so cold and tired I could hardly talk.

"I bet that tastes good," she said, pointing to the hot chocolate. "Yes, it does," I said. "How did you do?"

"What," she said, "In the race?" "Yeah."

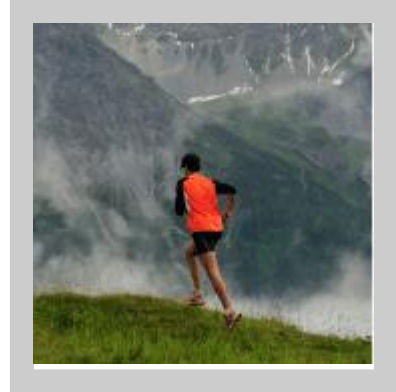
"Oh," she said, "I did all right." We stood there for a few minutes, long enough for me to realize I was shivering. I felt like I was getting sick. "So," Genevieve said, "want to get out of this rain?"

"Sure," I said immediately, sounding perhaps a bit too eager.

We walked down the hill to my car, which sat slumped under the branch of a big oak tree. A mud puddle had formed around it and we had to tiptoe or our shoes would get all muddy. Arriving at the driver's side door, I unlocked the car and sat—fell—onto the hard leather seat, rubbing my hands together, trying to get warm. I turned the key and the engine started. After a while, sweet, warm air began pouring out of the vents. I felt sleepy sitting back in the seat, nearly nodding off, until I noticed something from the corner of my eye. A man was running down the hill, waving his arms. "Wait!" he was saying. It looked like he was talking to us.

I cracked the window, just enough to talk without letting the rain in. "What?" I said, looking at him, perplexed, unable to figure out what he was doing. Without answering, he glanced inside the car and walked over to the passenger side. He knocked on the window and held something up in his hand and courteously Genevieve opened the door to address him.

"You forgot this," he said, handing her a shiny gold medallion. It took a moment for me to comprehend what it was: a medal, first place. He smiled, waved goodbye, and tiptoed back up the hill. I still didn't understand what had just happened. Genevieve closed the door and sat back in her seat. She tucked the medal away inside a pocket just as I turned to face her.



"You won?" I asked her, incredulously.

"Oh. Yeah," she said, nearly rolling her eyes.

"Oh," I said, surprised. "Wow."

She didn't elaborate. She didn't need to. And it was in that moment that I realized Genevieve was different. Not different, but she just wasn't really who I thought she was.

The car interior went quiet and all I could hear was the sound of the rain falling gently upon the windshield. We sat there watching it form little rivers as it raced down the glass. The warm air coming out of the vents felt so good, I don't think either of us wanted to move. We just sat there. After while, I started to feel a little embarrassed, and I think Genevieve knew what I was thinking. Then she looked at me.

"Want to get some lunch?" she said. Her voice, breaking the silence, sounded like a hammer coming down upon a sheet of glass.

"What?" I said. It took me a second to register her

suggestion. "Like a sandwich or something."

"Oh," I said. The sound of food made my stomach rumble. "Sure." I put the car in reverse and we sloshed our way out of the muddy parking lot.

1) As used in the beginning of the passage, the best DEFINITION for **drizzling** is

- A. flooding
- B. showering
- C. lightly raining
- D. downpouring

2) In paragraph 1, the author writes, "The hot cup felt like fire in my frozen hands." Which of the following literary devices is used in this sentence?

A. Simile, characterized by the making of a comparison between two unrelated and dissimilar things, people, beings, places and concepts. Similes allow the reader to better understand the sentiment the author wishes to convey. Similes are marked by the use of the words "as" or "like".

B. Foreshadowing, characterized by the use of words or phrases that hint at something—typically something bad—that is going to happen later in the story. This is done without revealing the story or spoiling the suspense.

C. Climax, characterized by the arrangement of words, phrases, or causes in an order of ascending power that culminates into the highest or most intense point. Often, a climax will occur just before resolution of the story's conflict, or problem. A climax works to deliver the main action or integral message to the reader in a powerful way.

D. Juxtaposition, characterized by the placement of a person, concept, place, idea, or theme parallel to another. This usually works to highlight the contrast between the two or to compare them.



## Answers and Explanations

1) C

Core Standard: **Craft and Structure**

**drizzle** (*verb*): to rain lightly falling in very fine drops.

In paragraph 1, the author writes, “The race was finally finished, and it was still drizzling outside. The rain was coming down very slowly, making it look as though we were trapped inside a giant cloud.” Based on this description, we know that the drizzling must mean raining lightly, not a heavy downpour. This means choice **(C)** is correct.

Based on the author’s description in paragraph 1, we know that drizzle resembles a cloud-like mist, whereas a flood is a large, overflowing body of water. Therefore, choice **(A)** is incorrect.

Based on the author’s description in paragraph 1, we know that drizzle resembles a cloud-like mist, whereas a shower describes a more direct spray of water. Thus, choice **(B)** is incorrect.

Based on the description in paragraph 1, we know that the drizzle resembles something like a fog or mist, not a heavy downpour. Therefore, choice **(D)** is incorrect.

2) A

Core Standard: **Integration of Knowledge**

One of the first clues to identify the literary device in this sentence is the appearance of the word “like.” In the sentence, “The hot cup felt like fire in my frozen hands,” we can go on to note a comparison. A hot cup is not made of fire, but it may feel as though it is, especially if your hands are very cold. This comparison lets us know that there is a simile at work. This means choice **(A)** is correct.

In the sentence, “The hot cup felt like fire in my frozen hands,” there is no hint at something that may happen later in the passage. Instead, the author is using exaggeration and comparisons to let readers into the narrator’s mindset. Therefore, choice **(B)** is incorrect.

The sentence, “The hot cup felt like fire in my frozen hands,” is not the highest, most dramatic point in the story. While the sentence helps establish the mood and setting of the passage, it could easily be removed and the main idea of the story would remain the same. Thus, choice **(C)** is incorrect.

While there is a comparison at work in the sentence, juxtaposition deals with concepts, people, or themes. Describing a hot cup as fiery is not the placement of two things near each other with the intent to compare them. Therefore, choice **(D)** is incorrect.

**3) D**

Core Standard: **Integration of Knowledge**

In making a discovery, a person becomes aware of a fact or situation. When the narrator says, "That's when I realized that Genevieve was different," the narrator is becoming fully aware of and understanding something new about Genevieve. Therefore, choice **(D)** is correct.

In saying, "Just then, someone touched my shoulder and I turned around to see that it was Genevieve," the narrator is describing a situation that happened. There is no discovery because the narrator has not yet found out who the person is or what the person wants. Thus, choice **(A)** is incorrect.

In saying, "A man was running down the hill, waving his arms," the narrator is making an observation. There is no discovery because the narrator has not yet found out who the man is or why he is running down the hill. Therefore, choice **(B)** is incorrect.

In saying, "He knocked on the window and held something up in his hand and courteously she opened the door to address him," the narrator is making an observation. There is no discovery because the narrator has not yet found out what the person is holding in his hand. Thus, choice **(C)** is incorrect.

**4) C**

Core Standard: **Craft and Structure**

**perplexed** (*adjective*): confused; befuddled; failing to understand.

Near the end of the passage, the narrator says that when the man came running down the hill, the narrator looked at him, "perplexed, unable to figure out what he was doing." This lets us know that perplexed means confused or failing to understand. Therefore choice **(C)** is correct.

The passage does not provide evidence to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

**5) D**

Core Standard: **Integration of Knowledge**

In the passage, the narrator realizes that Genevieve won the race. However, the narrator only discovers this fact after a man chases after her to give her the gold medal she won. If Genevieve were overly proud or arrogant, she would have informed the narrator of her win and not forgotten her prize. However, she did just the opposite. She downplayed her success. Therefore, choice **(D)** is correct.

Near the end of the passage, Genevieve asks the narrator if she wants to get some lunch. This shows that she may be hungry, but this does not represent who she is as a person. Rather, the majority of the passage is spent showing how Genevieve is humble, as explained above. Therefore, choice **(A)** is incorrect.

Genevieve does not tell the narrator that she won the race. But this does not necessarily make her strange. After all, we can understand why she did this: she did not want to make the narrator feel uncomfortable by being overly proud or arrogant. This means choice **(B)** is incorrect. Genevieve won the race, so this would mean that she is strong and in good physical condition, not weak or feeble. Thus, choice **(C)** is incorrect.