

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?"

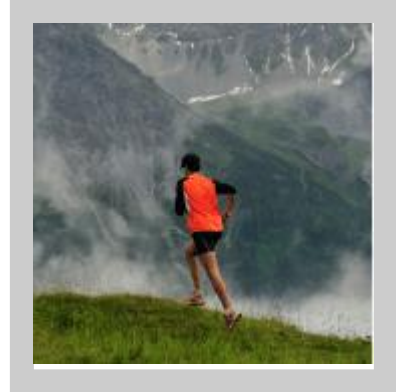
"Sure," I said immediately, sounding perhaps a bit too eager.

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 slogged 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.

3) Which sentence from the passage describes the moment when the narrator makes a discovery?

- A. "Just then, someone touched my shoulder and I turned around to see that it was Genevieve."
- B. "A man was running down the hill, waving his arms."
- C. "He knocked on the window and held something up in his hand and courteously she opened the door to address him."
- D. "And it was in that moment that I realized Genevieve was different."

4) As used near the end of the passage, the word **perplexed** means

- A. shy
- B. angry
- C. confused
- D. quiet

5) Genevieve can best be described as

- A. *famished*, meaning extremely hungry
- B. *bizarre*, meaning strange or weird
- C. *feeble*, meaning weak or delicate
- D. *humble*, meaning not overly proud or arrogant

6) Have you ever discovered that someone who you thought you knew was actually "different" than you thought they were? If so, explain this experience. If not, tell about someone who you may think is "different" than he or she appears to be and why.
