

Week of April 20-24

8th Grade Language Arts

Mrs. Kolo

Please read the following story carefully and then answer the questions on your own document or paper. . Remember, you can make notes on the story as you read.

The Case of the Missing Cell Phone

One week old. Melissa's new cell phone is one week old today. She absentmindedly pats the back pocket of her jeans to make sure it is still there. Two years of whining, complaining, begging, and dreaming finally paid off. The two-year contract on her old phone was finally up, and she came into possession of her dream phone.

"What color case should I buy?" Melissa asked Angela as they walked past the pizza parlor on Main Street.

"What about deep purple?" Angela replied. "It will match your bedspread."

"No! Black with gold sparkles fits your personality better," Zoe interjected.

"I wouldn't be caught dead with a sparkle cell phone case," said Tommy, Melissa's younger brother.

"Well, if you were dead, the sparkles wouldn't really matter, would they?" Melissa said with a smile as she opened the door to Mattie's Cell Phone Accessories. Tommy is mischievous at times, but she doesn't mind when he tags along on her trips to town with her friends. He has trouble making his own friends because he is a little shy, and she feels sorry for him when he looks bored and has nothing to do.

Melissa's jaw dropped as she looked around at the hundreds of different cell phone cases. She had no idea that she would have so many choices. A display near the cash register featured mobile socks. Melissa picked up a pink one with white trim, and studied it closely. Although it was cute, it really didn't offer much protection. If she picked up her phone from the bottom by mistake, it could easily fall out and break.

Melissa moved on to scrutinize the mobile pouches. These were sturdier, and came with a clip to attach to her jeans. "This would keep me from sitting on my phone and breaking it." Again, she took a moment to pat the back of her jeans to make sure the phone was still there. "But, the color is a little plain for my personality."

The phone skins filled the back wall. "Wow! Look at these!" She picked up a zebra striped phone skin, placed it against her cheek, and squealed with delight.

"Aren't cases supposed to protect phones?" asked Tommy. "That one isn't going to offer you much protection if you drop it on the cafeteria floor."

"I guess you are right," agreed Melissa. "I am a little bit accident prone." Finally, she spotted the face plates against the left wall in the back of the store. "Now, this is

what I have been looking for. These are stylish, but also offer protection.” Zoe smiled as Melissa made a bee-line for the black case with gold sparkles. “This one is perfect!”

“I’m glad you made your decision,” said Mattie, the shop owner. “Come over to the cash register and I will ring you up.”

“Can you put the new case on for me?” Melissa asked as she pulled out her phone. One look, and she immediately paled. She put her hand over her heart and fell into a chair by the window. “What? This can’t be. This isn’t it.”

“What’s going on?” asked Angela.

“This. This isn’t my new phone. It is my old phone. Tommy quick! Call mom and tell her to go into my bedroom.” Tommy took out his cell phone and speed dialed his mother. As requested, his mother immediately climbed the stairs and entered Melissa’s room.

Melissa grabbed the phone from Tommy’s hand. “Mom, look on my desk. I know I left it there. What do you mean it isn’t there? Look all over. Please! Look on the floor, the bed, the closet...This can’t be happening to me! Thanks for looking Mom. No, I am not irresponsible. I’ll find it. I promise.” She hung up the phone and turned to her friends.

“Someone stole my phone!” Melissa shouted.

“Don’t look at me,” said Zoe. “I just got a new phone for Christmas.”

“It wasn’t me,” said Angela. “I’ve never even been in your bedroom.”

Tommy looked at the floor. “I wasn’t happy when you got the new phone instead of me, but I would never steal from you,” he said in a low voice.

“I know who took the phone,” shouted Melissa. “You better hand it over, right now.”

Who stole the phone? Think about the clues, and see if you can figure it out.

Name _____ Date _____

1. Highlight the sentences from the passage that distinguish the cell phone cases from each other. (Change the text to a different color.) Then, explain the differences between the four different types. Cite the textual evidence.
2. Write down what you know about each of the three suspects: Angela, Zoe and Tommy. Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly, as well as inferences drawn from the text.
3. Highlight the sentences from the passage that indicate possible clues. (Change the text to a different color.) Name a suspect, and cite the textual evidence to support your choice.
4. Name a possible theme for the passage. The theme is the message that the author wants the reader to walk away knowing. Consider the outcome of the story.
5. Why did the author decide to use 3rd person point of view instead of 1st person point of view? How would the ending be different if it was written in 1st person?

Remember, 3rd person point of view means that the narrator is not a character in the story.

6. Read this sentence from paragraph 1: "She absentmindedly pats the back pocket of her jeans to make sure it is still there." What do you suppose the word "absentmindedly" means?
7. Read these lines from page 4: *Tommy looked at the floor. "I wasn't happy when you got the new phone instead of me, but I would never steal from you," he said in a low voice.* What do these sentences reveal about Tommy's personality?
8. There are at least four idioms in the passage.

Idioms are examples of figurative language. They are phrases that have different meanings than their literal words. For example, "It's raining cats and dogs" is an idiom that means it is raining very hard.

Highlight four idioms from the passage. (Change the text color.) Then, write them down below, and explain what they mean.

Idiom 1:

Idiom 2:

Idiom 3:

Idiom 4: