

Quiz: RL.5.2

Read the passage. Then answer the question.

Benny's Big Game

- 1 Wow, am I beat. Who knew that taking a test could wear you out so much? I just left Mr. Gibson's history class, where we had a test today on life in the U.S. colonies, and, boy, was it hard. Mr. Gibson's tests are always challenging, but this one was more demanding than usual, which is bad news for me, because this is the one test I really need to do well on.
- 2 Let me explain. I play on the Lincoln Middle School basketball team. Basketball is my life; I practice every chance I get. I wouldn't miss a game even if I had the mumps, the measles, AND a broken leg, which is why the night before Mr. Gibson's last test, I was practicing instead of studying. Regular practice was long over, but I stayed behind to practice free throws. I got home really late and only managed to glance through my history notes before falling asleep in bed.
- 3 Usually, I'm not such an irresponsible student, but the big game against Matson Middle School is coming up, and this is the first year we really have a chance to win. Winning wasn't a certainty, but it was a good possibility if we practiced hard and gave it our all. I thought nothing should get in the way of our victory, including studying. Well, Mr. Gibson had other ideas. In this case, what I saw as the priority was not what he saw as most important. When he handed back our tests, he asked me to come see him after class. I looked down at my paper and saw the big red F circled on the first page, and I knew why Mr. Gibson wanted to meet. Boy, now I was in trouble. I had never failed a test before. My mom would be so mad at me! And also . . .
- 4 "Benny," Mr. Gibson said after class in that stern sort of voice that told you that his next words were not going to be pleasant. "I'm sure you are aware of the school's policy about students playing sports."
- 5 "Yes, Mr. Gibson," I answered.
- 6 "Your dedication to your team is admirable, Benny, but it cannot get in the way of your education. A failing grade on just one test is enough to get you on academic probation, and you know what that means, don't you? Students on academic probation are not allowed to participate in after-school sports programs."
- 7 He was right. Coach Davitz would bench me for sure. "Wait, Mr. Gibson, please don't put me on probation now! I'll miss the big game against Matson—I've been training for weeks!" I pleaded. "I know I should have done better on this test. Just give me another chance, and I promise I won't let you down."
- 8 "I know you can do better, too, Benny. That's why I have already spoken with Principal Hernandez. She has agreed that we do not need to place you on probation—"
- 9 I started to cheer, but Mr. Gibson cut me off. "Provided," he continued, "that you get an A on my next test."
- 10 Oh, wow, I thought, that would not be easy. I swallowed hard and said, "Okay, Mr. Gibson, I can do it. Thanks for giving me a second chance—I won't let you down."

