

Quiz A: RL.5.3

Read the passage. Then answer the question.

Best Friends Forever

- 1 Best friends forever, that's what we said we would always be, ever since fourth grade. We had both been the new kids in school that year. You know what that's like—friendships established, cliques formed, and no room or desire to welcome the new kids into the in-group. So we were outsiders, and we bonded together, forming our own group of two.
- 2 Now I'm quite ordinary, the average, run-of-the-mill type of kid. Up to then, I had always had lots of friends, as much because there was nothing to dislike about me as that there were wonderful things to like. I wasn't particularly talented, I wasn't particularly witty or clever, but I was easy to get along with.
- 3 Pippa, on the other hand, was remarkable. She could sing, she could dance, she could even tell jokes, the type of jokes that made people actually laugh instead of giggle in embarrassment. It didn't take long until the in-group took notice of Pippa and tried to make her their friend, to absorb her into their group. They didn't care about me, in fact, they barely noticed me, but Pippa cared. In her mind, we had begun the year as best friends, and we would remain best friends forever. She was loyal to a fault, but who was I to complain since it benefitted me. As she became popular, her popularity began to rub off a little on me.
- 4 It continued that way all through fourth grade and into the beginning of middle school. Frankly, I got so used to being a little popular, I began to think it would last forever. Then came the talent show and Pippa lost her glow. Here's what happened.
- 5 I love to sing, so when we started middle school, I talked Pippa into joining the Glee Club with me. Although she was a talented singer, she wasn't particularly interested, but she knew I was interested, so she went along. That's too mild a word—*interested*—I was passionate about being in Glee. Secretly, I harbored the hope that my talent would be discovered and I would get the star part in the winter intermural competition. Although I was usually pretty well adjusted to playing second banana, this time I wanted things to be different.
- 6 I was feeling pretty confident during the tryouts. Singing is something I do well, I guess because I love it so much. From the looks on the judges' faces, I was certain I'd get the lead, but Pippa sang right after me. Like everything else she did, she was superb. Of course, she got the lead, and I was made her back up. Second banana again.
- 7 "I'm sorry, Beth. I was hoping you would get it. You were great!" said Pippa after the announcement was made.
- 8 "But you were better," I said. I hoped she didn't hear the "as usual" I muttered under my breath."
- 9 "But . . ."
- 10 "No *buts* about it. And with you in the lead role, our school will come in first. That's what's important."

