

Quiz A: RL.4.1

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

A Legend on the Ice

- 1 Whoosh! Erik shielded his eyes from the spray of ice the skater kicked up after stopping suddenly in front of him. Erik stood in awe as he watched the speed skaters and figure skaters slash and zip and dance across the ice-skating rink. Erik's skates were on, and so was all of his padded gear. However, he couldn't bring himself to take his first unsteady step onto the slick ice. Erik nervously adjusted his helmet for the third time when his dad skated over to him.
- 2 "There you are!" Dad said. "I wondered where you went. Need some help getting into the rink?"
- 3 Erik took a cautious step forward. He clung to the wall as he stepped on the ice and held his breath. When he didn't fall down immediately, he let out his breath. Erik tried getting the feel of the ice beneath his feet and took a few cautious steps. He moved one foot forward and then the other. The sensation was weird, but it did feel familiar. Sort of like roller skating. He took a few more steps, holding his arms out to get his balance. He stayed close to the wall, just in case. But after several minutes, he started to get his rhythm.
- 4 "It's sort of like roller skating," he called back to his dad. "It might be easier to keep my balance with a hockey stick, though."
- 5 "You need to master ice skating before you can bring in gear," Dad replied. "All ice-hockey players need to know the basics before they become legends on the ice!"
- 6 Together, Erik and his dad started skating around the rink using slow, easy strides. After a few minor slips, Erik started to feel more confident. Now, he knew why hockey players would sometimes continue to skate around a rink, even when the game was over. Skating was awesome! He never realized how free you could feel when you were moving around the ice. He was a bird in the air, a fish in the sea! Becoming a hockey star was going to be a piece of cake! He started to build speed as he grew more confident, quickly passing his father.
- 7 "Watch it, Erik!" Dad warned. "Remember, when you play ice hockey, you have to know where everyone is on the ice!"
- 8 Erik grinned and gave him a thumbs-up, neatly skating around a group of children. There weren't too many people on the ice, though, so he had a fair amount of space. Erik slowed to watch one of the instructors teaching a young girl how to skate backward. That would be useful to know in ice hockey!
- 9 "Watch this, Dad!" Erik called, and started skating forward. As soon as there was a clear spot, though, he turned midstride to try his luck at skating backward. For a while, Erik was a natural skating backward. Unfortunately, the instructor had made it look easier than it was. By the time he got to the first turn in the rink, he had too much speed as he turned. He spun around on his skates three times before losing his balance. Shrik krik krik! His skates skidded under him, and he fell to the ground. Dad skated over, but Erik was surprised to see the instructor standing beside him, too.

