

Name _____ Date _____

Directions: Read the passage and answer the questions.

Write your answers on separate paper or on the back of this page.

The Pencil Case

- 1 Nora was walking to school with Beth when they spotted a brand-new pencil case on the sidewalk. Nora picked it up. It contained a set of colored pencils, each one sharpened to a perfect point.
- 2 "That's awesome," said Beth. "We can share it."
- 3 "We can't keep it," said Nora. "It belongs to someone else."
- 4 When the two girls got to the school playground, Nora noticed a group of girls comforting a friend.
- 5 "I know I put it in my backpack," the girl said, crying, "so it must have fallen out." Her name was Miley, Nora remembered, a girl she did not know.
- 6 "Is this yours?" Nora asked, holding up the case. "Beth and I found it on the sidewalk."
- 7 Miley smiled with relief as the bell rang and everyone hurried into the school.
- 8 A little later, all of the fourth-grade students met in the gym for volleyball. That meant playing in teams, and Nora was always one of the last kids to be picked.
- 9 As the teacher chose captains and had them pick teams, Nora prepared for a long wait. So she was shocked when the first name called was hers. She looked up to see Miley, smiling and beckoning her over. Nora ran over to take her place.



Comprehension Questions

1. Compare how Nora and Beth react to finding the pencil case.
2. Underline one sentence that shows how Miley feels about losing the pencil case.
3. What is the theme, or message, in this story?
4. Underline two sentences in the passage that best support the theme.

___/5