

Name: _____

Date: _____

Read the story.

Read the story. Answer the questions to show your understanding of the text and the theme “Teamwork and Collaboration”.



Teamwork Trouble

The lunch bell rang, and kids rushed to the gym for free play.

“Let’s get a game started!” Jason shouted, kicking a soccer ball toward the center of the gym floor.

Jordan walked in behind them, taking slower steps. He scanned the room and saw Mateo and his usual, competitive group already forming a team.

“Me, Jason, and Malik,” Mateo said, high-fiving his friends. “We’re one team. The rest of you figure it out.”

Gia crossed her arms. “That’s not fair. You always pick your friends first.”

Mateo shrugged. “Well, we win the most. Why would I change that?”

Jordan looked over and saw Ava standing near the wall. She wasn’t moving toward the group. She was staring down at her sneakers, kicking the floor softly.

“She was on your team last time,” Mateo added, looking at Gia. “And she didn’t even try. Why should she play again?”

Jordan glanced at Ava. Her face turned red. She looked like she wanted to disappear. He could tell the words

stung. Something about that didn’t sit right with him.

Jordan stepped forward. “Hey,” he said. “Why don’t we try something different?”

Mateo turned. “Like what?”

“Let’s mix up the teams,” Jordan said. “We could play shorter games and switch players after each round. That way, everyone gets a chance to play with different people.”

A few kids looked at each other and nodded. Gia smiled and gave a thumbs-up.

Ava lifted her eyes. “Really?” she said quietly.

“Yeah,” Jordan said. “Why not? It’s more fun when everyone gets to play.”

Mateo groaned. “Fine. But I still get to kick off the first game.”

Jordan grinned. “Deal.”

They split into quick teams and started the game. The ball moved fast, and everyone was passing more. People cheered when someone tried something new—even if it didn’t work.

Then Ava got the ball. She froze for a second—but then kicked it hard. The ball flew past two kids and rolled right into the goal. Everyone clapped and cheered. Jordan gave her a high five.

After leaving the gym, Ava walked next to Jordan in the hallway.

“Thanks for saying something,” she said. “I was going to sit out. I didn’t think anyone wanted me to play.”

Jordan smiled. “You played great. You just needed a chance.”

Ava smiled too.

The teams weren’t perfect, and not everyone agreed on every play, but everyone got a turn and collaborated. Everyone had a voice, and that felt like a real “teamwork” win.

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Part 1 : Multiple Choice

Circle the correct answer.

1. Why was Gia frustrated with the way teams were chosen?

- A She didn't get picked first
- B Mateo always picked his friends
- C She didn't want to play
- D It wasn't fair to the others

2. How did Mateo act at the beginning of the story?

- A He wanted everyone to join in
- B He was only thinking about winning
- C He didn't want to play at all
- D He was nervous about the game

3. What happened after the teams changed?

- A Only a few kids played
- B Mateo got mad and left
- C Everyone got to try and cheer for each other
- D The gym teacher made them stop

4. What is the main lesson of the story?

- A Teamwork means working together
- B Winning is the most important thing
- C People should play only with their best friends
- D Games should always be short and simple

Part 2 : Vocabulary Match

Draw a line from each word to its meaning.

- 1 Collaborate
- 2 Competitive
- 3 Scanned
- 4 Stung
- 5 Groaned

- A Made a serious or unhappy face or sound
- B Trying very hard to win
- C Working together and sharing ideas as a group
- D Looked quickly around a place
- E Hurt someone's feelings

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Part 3: Short Answer

Answer the questions with one or two complete sentences.

a) Why do you think Ava didn't want to join the game at first?

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b) What did Jordan do that showed teamwork and kindness?

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Part 4: Reflection

Answer the questions using complete sentences. Use examples to support your answer.

Think about a time when you saw someone being excluded or left out. How did it make you feel, and what could you do if it happens again?

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Answer Key

Part 1 : Multiple Choice

1. **D.**
2. **B.**
3. **C.**
4. **A.**

Part 2 : Vocabulary Match

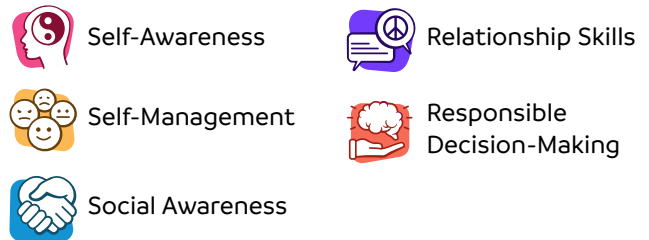
1. → **C.**
2. → **B.**
3. → **D.**
4. → **E.**
5. → **A.**

Part 3: Short Answer

a) Ava felt left out and embarrassed after Mateo said she didn't try. She thought no one wanted her on the team.

b) He stood up for Ava and suggested a new way to include everyone, showing leadership and collaboration.

CASEL Competency Alignment



ELA Common Core Standards – Grade 4

RL.4.2

Determine the theme and explain how it is supported by key details.

RL.4.3

Describe characters' thoughts, words, and actions and how they affect events.

RL.4.6

Compare and contrast the point of view of the narrator and characters.

W.4.3

Write narratives with clear sequences and descriptive details.

SL.4.1

Engage in group discussions and build on others' ideas respectfully.

L.4.4

Determine the meaning of unknown vocabulary using context clues.