Name: Date: Score: / 6

The Night of the Blackout: Comprehension

Fiction story · about 190 words

Read the story. Then answer each question. Circle the best answer or write your answer on the lines.

The Night of the Blackout

The storm had been growling all evening when, with a loud pop, every light in the apartment went out. The refrigerator stopped humming. The TV went silent. Eleven-year-old Rosa and her little brother Mateo sat frozen on the couch in total darkness.

"Don't panic," Rosa said, even though her heart was racing. She remembered the emergency kit under the kitchen sink. Feeling her way along the wall, she found the box and pulled out a flashlight, extra batteries, and a battery-powered radio.

The radio crackled to life. A reporter said that thousands of homes had lost power and that crews were working to repair the lines. "It could be hours," Mateo groaned.

Rosa had an idea. She propped the flashlight against a cup so it shone on the ceiling. Then she held her hands in front of the beam. A shadow rabbit hopped across the wall. Mateo giggled and made a shadow dog that chased it. For the next hour, they invented a whole shadow-puppet play about a rabbit who outsmarts a hungry fox.

When the lights finally flickered back on, Mateo looked disappointed. "Can we have another blackout tomorrow?" he asked.

1. **Main idea:** What is the story mostly about?
   A. two kids watch a TV show about storms B. a girl keeps her brother calm and busy during a blackout
   C. a reporter covers a big storm D. a family moves to a new apartment

2. **Detail:** What caused the lights to go out?
   A. a fire B. a broken switch C. Mateo D. a storm

3. **Detail:** Where was the emergency kit?
   A. in the closet B. in the car C. under the kitchen sink D. on the roof

4. **Detail:** What did the radio reporter say?
   A. Everyone should leave. B. The storm was over. C. Crews were working to repair the power lines.
   D. Schools were closed.

5. **Character:** How did Rosa really feel when the lights went out?
   A. excited B. angry at Mateo C. nervous, but she tried to stay calm D. bored

6. **Inference:** Why did Mateo ask for another blackout?

ANSWER KEY

The Night of the Blackout: Comprehension (answers)

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6. **Inference:** Why did Mateo ask for another blackout?
   He had so much fun making shadow puppets with Rosa.