Name: Date: Score: / 6

Lost Signal: Reading Comprehension

Fiction story · about 265 words

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

📡 Lost Signal

The hiking trail in the national forest had seemed easy at the start. But two hours in, eleven-year-old Mateo and his older sister Lucia realized they had taken a wrong turn. The trail markers had disappeared, the trees all looked the same, and their phones showed no signal.

Lucia's voice wobbled. "We're lost."

Mateo felt panic rising in his chest, too. Then he remembered the safety class their scout leader had taught: stop, think, observe, plan.

"Let's stop," he said, sitting down on a log. "If we keep walking, we could get more lost."

They took inventory. They had two water bottles, half full, a bag of trail mix, a whistle, and a bright orange rain jacket. Mateo remembered that the trail had followed a creek for the first mile. Now he could hear running water somewhere downhill.

"Creeks flow downhill, and the trailhead was by the creek," he said. "But our scout leader said that if you're lost, it's usually safest to stay in one place so searchers can find you."

They agreed to stay put. Lucia hung the orange jacket on a branch where it could be seen from above. Every few minutes, Mateo blew the whistle three times, the signal for help. They rationed their water and trail mix.

Two hours later, they heard a distant whistle answer back. A park ranger appeared through the trees, followed by their worried parents. "You did everything right," the ranger said. "Staying in one place and signaling made you easy to find."

That night, Mateo added a new item to his hiking checklist: a paper map.

1. **Main idea:** What is the story mostly about?

   A. two kids win a hiking race B. a family builds a campsite

   C. two kids get lost on a hike and use safety skills until they are found D. a ranger teaches a class

2. **Detail:** What were the four steps from the safety class?

   A. walk, look, listen, eat B. climb, shout, jump, rest C. run, hide, wait, call D. stop, think, observe, plan

3. **Inference:** Why did Lucia hang the orange jacket on a branch?

   A. to dry it B. to keep it clean C. so it could be seen from above D. to mark the creek

4. **Detail:** What was the signal for help?

   A. lighting a fire B. three whistle blasts C. waving a stick D. one long shout

5. **Detail:** Why did they decide to stay in one place?

   A. It was raining. B. They were too tired. C. It is usually safest so searchers can find you.

   D. Their parents told them to.

6. **Character:** Name a trait that describes Mateo and give one detail that shows it.

ANSWER KEY

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   calm, because he sat down, remembered the safety steps, and made a plan instead of panicking