Name: Date: Score: / 6

The Debate: 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.

The Debate

When Ms. Turner announced a class debate about whether students should be allowed to have phones at school, Kendra groaned. She was assigned to argue that phones should be allowed, but she actually thought they were a distraction.

"That's the point," Ms. Turner said. "A good debater understands both sides."

Kendra spent the weekend researching. She found articles about schools that used phones for learning apps, emergency communication, and research. She also found studies showing that phones could make it harder to concentrate. She took notes on both sides so she could predict what her opponent, Luis, would say.

On debate day, Luis went first. He argued that phones distract students and can lead to cyberbullying. His points were strong, and the class nodded along. Kendra's stomach fluttered.

When it was her turn, Kendra took a breath. "My opponent is right that phones can be a distraction," she began. Some classmates looked surprised. "But the answer isn't banning them. It's teaching students to use them responsibly." She described a school in Ohio where phones stayed in lockers during class but were used for planned activities like scanning plant species on nature walks. She explained that parents wanted a way to reach their kids in emergencies.

Luis responded, and Kendra answered each point calmly, using evidence instead of opinions.

Afterward, the class voted. Kendra's side won by two votes. Luis shook her hand. "You almost convinced me," he said.

Kendra laughed. "I almost convinced myself."

On the walk home, she realized that changing her mind wasn't the point. Understanding why people think differently was.

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

   A. a girl learns to understand both sides by debating a position she disagrees with B. a school buys new phones
   C. a boy wins a speech contest D. a class votes to ban phones

2. **Inference:** Why did Kendra groan at first?

   A. She did not like Luis. B. She had to argue a side she did not agree with. C. She lost her phone. D. She was sick.

3. **Detail:** How did Kendra prepare?

   A. practiced only her side B. did nothing C. researched and took notes on both sides D. asked her mom to write it

4. **Detail:** How did Kendra start her argument?

   A. by agreeing that phones can be a distraction B. by yelling at Luis C. by telling a joke D. by reading a poem

5. **Detail:** How many votes did Kendra's side win by?

   A. ten B. twenty C. two D. one

6. **Inference:** What did Kendra learn by the end of the story?

ANSWER KEY

The Debate: Reading Comprehension (answers)

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6. **Inference:** What did Kendra learn by the end of the story?
   Understanding why people think differently is more important than winning or changing your mind.