

The last seat

Fiction | 6 questions

Name: _____ Date: _____

Read once for the main idea. Look back at the passage while answering. Find words that support each answer.

The bus shelter was crowded after the school concert. Rain ticked against its roof. Ellis sat on the only dry bench, balancing a violin case across his knees.

An older woman stepped into the shelter carrying two shopping bags. She leaned against the side and rubbed her wrist. Ellis looked at the bench, then at the puddle beside his shoes. He had been standing on the concert stage for a long time, and his legs ached.

He tucked the violin case under one arm and stood up. "Would you like this seat?"

"Thank you," she said, placing the bags at her feet. "These handles have been digging into my hands."

Ellis waited near the doorway. A boy from his class shifted sideways to make room under the roof. Neither of them said anything. When the bus arrived, the woman picked up one bag. Ellis carried the other to the bus door, then handed it back before finding his own seat.

Questions

Choose one answer for each question. You can refer to the passage. The answer notes start on a separate page.

1. What was Ellis carrying?

- A. Two shopping bags
- B. A folded umbrella
- C. A violin case
- D. A drum

2. Why were the shopping bags uncomfortable to carry?

- A. They were tied to the bench
- B. They were full of rainwater
- C. They had no handles
- D. Their handles dug into the woman's hands

3. What does “ached” mean?

- A. Became completely dry
- B. Hurt with a steady pain
- C. Made a sharp sound
- D. Moved very quickly

4. Why was giving up the seat a difficult choice for Ellis?

- A. He did not know where the bus went
- B. He wanted to play his violin
- C. He had lost his ticket
- D. His own legs were tired

5. What does the boy's movement suggest?

- A. He wanted Ellis to leave the shelter
- B. He was looking for the shopping bags
- C. He had finished playing the violin
- D. He wanted Ellis to have shelter from the rain

6. Which idea connects Ellis's actions?

- A. He wants to take the shopping home
- B. He notices when someone needs practical help
- C. He wants everyone to hear his music
- D. He tries to get on the bus first

Answers and explanations

Try the questions before reading these notes. A practice score is not an exam grade.

1. C. A violin case

Ellis balanced a violin case across his knees.

2. D. Their handles dug into the woman's hands

The woman explains that the handles had been digging into her hands.

3. B. Hurt with a steady pain

Ellis had stood for a long time and his legs hurt.

4. D. His own legs were tired

The passage explains that his legs ached before he chose to stand.

5. D. He wanted Ellis to have shelter from the rain

Shifting sideways makes room for Ellis under the roof.

6. B. He notices when someone needs practical help

Ellis offers the seat and later carries a bag to help with two immediate needs.

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