READING COMPREHENSION · YEAR 6

Character Feelings and Motivation Questions

Name _____ **Date** _____

Read the extract carefully. Answer in full sentences and use details from the text to support your ideas.

NARRATIVE EXTRACT

The Hill

All week, Mia had pictured the finish line. She had practised on the park path, timing each lap on her watch. Last year, she had come near the back; this time, the blue ribbon seemed close enough to touch. She tightened the knot in her laces and told herself not to look at the other runners.

The whistle sent them charging across the field. Mia settled into a steady pace, breathing in fours as her coach had taught her. By the first bend she was near the front. Then, on the muddy hill, she heard a scrape and a sharp yelp behind her. Alfie, the new boy in her class, had slipped. One knee was dark with mud, and his shoelace trailed in the grass.

“Keep going,” he called, trying to push himself up. The runners streamed past. Mia glanced towards the finish. The ribbon fluttered above the crowd. She could almost hear her name being called. Then she turned back.

“It’s only a scrape,” Alfie muttered, though his hands were shaking. Mia offered her arm and waited while he retied his lace. They walked together to the path. By then the last runners were passing.

At the finish, Mia’s cheeks burned—not from the run this time. Alfie looked at her, puzzled. “You didn’t have to stop.”

“I know,” she said. She watched the blue ribbon being folded away, then noticed Alfie was smiling. The disappointment in her chest did not disappear, but it no longer felt like the only thing there.

Think about the characters

Use evidence from the extract

1. At the start, what tells you Mia has prepared carefully and is hopeful about the race? Give two details.

2. Why is turning back a difficult choice for Mia? Use details to explain what she may be thinking.

3. What clues show how Alfie feels after his fall? Include one thing he says and one thing he does.

4. How do Mia’s feelings change between reaching the finish and the final paragraph? Support your answer with evidence.

5. Why do you think Mia stops to help Alfie? Explain what the ending suggests about her reasons, using evidence from the extract.