

*Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.*

## Trading Games



“He just doesn’t care about anything besides his video games since we moved here to Arkansas from California,” Rafat's father complained. Rafat could hear his dad on the phone, but he was more interested in the task at hand: zapping aliens in another level of “Aliens Attack!”

“I'm at a loss. . . .” his father continued. Then he quickly repeated some flight information and hung up. “Rafat, Rafat,” he called. “Don't you remember? Your uncle Naseer is coming from Lebanon. Aren't you excited? He'll be here tomorrow night.”

“Darn it,” Rafat screeched. “Dad, look what you made me do! I almost had a high score, too.”

- 4 “Look,” his father said sternly, “I know it has been hard for you to move away from California. I know you miss your friends. But, you can’t stay inside and hide behind these video games all day. You have to make an effort to meet new people. And most important of all is that you need to show your uncle some respect when he arrives. I'm so glad you'll finally be able to meet him.”

“Sure, Dad. What am I going to have in common with an uncle I’ve never met? You can have fun catching up on old times while I’ll do something I enjoy: playing video games.”

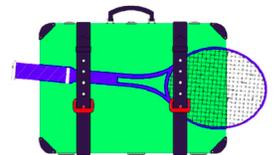
Rafat's father told his son to turn off the video game.

Rafat stomped off to his room. His father finished his tea and went to bed.

The next evening at the airport, Rafat played his handheld video game while his father paced in the waiting area. When the plane landed, Uncle Naseer was one of the first ones to leave. He walked up to Rafat and said, “Hello! You must be Rafat.” Rafat almost dropped his video game.

“Yeah, are you . . . my uncle?”

Rafat’s uncle seemed much younger than his father. His uncle wore a leather jacket, blue jeans, and a t-shirt. “Here. I brought you something,” he told Rafat.



- 11 “Oh, great. A tennis racquet,” Rafat said without enthusiasm.

“Yes, your father tells me you like to play a lot.”

“Well, on my gaming system. I play online with my best friend Jimmy. He lives in California. I don’t know how to play real tennis.”

“Well, then I will teach you.”

Later that night, his father and his uncle drank endless cups of tea and talked about old times.

The next morning Uncle Naseer took Rafat to the park to teach him how to play tennis. Rafat insisted on bringing along his video game, just in case. When they reached the park, he placed it carefully on a nearby bench.

It only took a short while for Rafat to learn the basics of tennis. Soon, he and his uncle were hitting the ball slowly but surely back and forth.

“This isn’t so bad,” Rafat thought. Just then, he heard a thud and a crash.

“Oh, no! Not my game!” Rafat yelled. A green tennis ball bounced away from its cracked screen.

Two boys followed close behind. “Oh, I’m really sorry,” said one of the boys, who was about Rafat’s age. “I guess I hit the ball too hard. I wasn’t even trying to hit it over here.”

Rafat picked up his broken game. He took a deep breath. “It’s OK,” he replied.

“Hey, do you want to hit some balls with us?” the other boy asked Rafat.

Rafat looked at his game and then at his uncle, who nodded yes.

“Sure,” said Rafat. He smiled as he put down the video game, picked up his racquet, and ran over to the next court.

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|---|--|
| <p>1. The passage is <b>most</b> likely an example of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. a tall tale.</li> <li>B. a folk tale.</li> <li>C. realistic fiction.</li> <li>D. informational text.</li> </ul> <p>2. The setting of the story is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. California.</li> <li>B. Lebanon.</li> <li>C. Arkansas.</li> <li>D. Naseer.</li> </ul> | <p>3. The <b>best</b> synonym for the word <u>enthusiasm</u> as it is used in paragraph 11 is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. anger.</li> <li>B. excitement.</li> <li>C. nervousness.</li> <li>D. embarrassment.</li> </ul> <p>4. In paragraph 11, Rafat says, “Oh, great. A tennis racquet.” What is the author’s <b>most</b> likely reason for including this line?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. to explain that Rafat is a great tennis player</li> <li>B. to describe the tennis racquet Rafat receives</li> <li>C. to persuade the reader to buy a great tennis racquet</li> <li>D. to show that Rafat does not like the present but doesn’t want to say so</li> </ul> |
|---|--|

5. What is meant by the passage's title "Trading Games"?
- A. Uncle Naseer trades his tennis racquet for a video game.
  - B. Rafat trades video games with the boys at the park.
  - C. Rafat trades video games with Uncle Naseer.
  - D. Rafat trades video games for tennis.
6. Rafat knows a little about the game of tennis from
- A. reading about it.
  - B. playing it on online.
  - C. watching his father play.
  - D. hearing about it in Lebanon.
7. Which of these books in your school library would give you information about how to play tennis?
- A. *Tennis Rules for Kids*
  - B. *The History of Tennis*
  - C. *Tennis World Records*
  - D. *Tennis Around the World*
8. Rafat's father thinks it is **most** important that, during Uncle Naseer's visit, Rafat should
- A. visit Lebanon.
  - B. learn to play tennis.
  - C. show respect to his uncle.
  - D. take good care of his video game.
9. In paragraph 4, Rafat's father tells him that he can't "hide behind these video games all day." Which sentence **best** rephrases his statement?
- A. Your games are more fun to play than anyone else's.
  - B. Your game system is so big that you can sit behind it.
  - C. You have more games for your system than anyone else.
  - D. You need to make some new friends instead of playing video games all day.



**RUBRIC FOR READING OPEN-RESPONSE ITEM A (NO STANDARD)**

- A. Rafat seems to get along better with Uncle Naseer than with his father. Tell four details from the passage that show that Rafat probably enjoys his uncle’s visit.

| <b>Score</b> | <b>Description</b>   |
|--------------|--|
| <b>4</b>     | The response includes four details from the passage that show how Rafat enjoys his uncle’s visit.  |
| <b>3</b>     | The response includes three details from the passage that show how Rafat enjoys his uncle’s visit.   |
| <b>2</b>     | The response includes two details from the passage that show how Rafat enjoys his uncle’s visit.   |
| <b>1</b>     | The response includes one detail from the passage that show how Rafat enjoys his uncle’s visit.  |
| <b>0</b>     | The response is totally incorrect or irrelevant. There is no evidence that the student understands the task, or the response may be off-topic. |
| <b>B</b>     | Blank—No Response. (No attempt to answer the item. Score of “0” assigned for the item.)  |

**Possible Response Information:**

thinks Naseer is younger

thinks he dresses “cool”

receives a gift from Naseer (even if he doesn’t like it at first)

Naseer takes him to the park (spends time with him)

doesn't seem to talk back to Naseer as much as he does the father

Naseer doesn't seem to mind that he brought a video game with him

Naseer teaches him to play tennis; he accepts the instruction well

Naseer allows him to spend time with the new friends he made at the park

## LITTLE ROCK

Reading: Literary Prose / Grade 4 / trading games

Answer Key and Alignment

| <u>Answer</u> | <u>Source</u> | <u>Core Reading Skill</u> | <u>SLE</u> | <u>CC-Standard</u> |
|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|------------|--------------------|
| 1. C          | TLI           | Genre                     | R.10.4.3   | RL.4.5             |
| 2. C          | TLI           | Literary Element Analysis | R.10.4.12  | RL.4.3             |
| 3. B          | TLI           | Vocabulary                | R.11.4.1   | RL.4.4             |
| 4. D          | TLI           | Inference                 | R.9.4.9    | RL.4.1(B)          |
| 5. D          | TLI           | Inference                 | R.9.4.7    | RL.4.1(B)          |
| 6. B          | TLI           | Article Details           | R.9.4.5    | RL.4.1(A)          |
| 7. A          | TLI           | Research Skills           | R.9.4.6    |                    |
| 8. C          | TLI           | Article Details           | R.9.4.12   | RL.4.1(A)          |
| 9. D          | TLI           | Literary Devices          | R.11.4.4   | RL.4.1(B)          |