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Weekly Test Lesson 4

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

Mermaid Cousins

As Melanie walked onto the beach's jagged rocks, a plume of surf sprayed her face, drenching her long red hair and causing her to cry out in fright.

Just then, she heard a low, bubbling laughter. Melanie scanned the beach, then froze. A girl—or half a girl since her bottom half was a rainbow-colored fishtail—drew herself up onto the rocks.

“My name is Melinda,” the half-girl said. “I’m glad to finally meet you, since I’ve been following you all week! Why did you scream at the wave?”

Melanie gulped in amazement. Was she imagining things? “Are you really a . . . mermaid?” she asked, ignoring the girl’s question.

Melinda chuckled again. “Of course I’m a mermaid. Do you notice anything else? Look at me closely.”

Melanie studied Melinda intently. With the mermaid’s long red hair, green eyes, and freckles, it was almost like looking in a mirror. “You look sort of like me!” Melanie responded. To her surprise, Melinda nodded and explained that the two girls were related!

Now Melanie was really shocked. “How can that be true?” she gasped. “You are a mermaid and I am a human. And you love the ocean waves, while I . . .” Her voice trailed off.

The mermaid flicked her tail impatiently. “Do you really think humans and mermaids are that different? Do you think I’m so different just because I have a tail? Anyway, we mermaids are very adaptable, and we sometimes choose to be human.” She looked at Melanie with her sparkling green eyes. “That is why we happen to have the same great-grandmother.”

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Reading

“You must be joking!” Melanie gasped, but somehow she knew the mermaid wasn’t.

Could this be the big family secret Grandma Rosalie had long been hinting about? Her heart began to beat faster. If so, it was bigger and more secret than Melanie could ever have imagined! “Does this mean we’re cousins?” Melanie asked.

“Absolutely,” answered Melinda. “I must go now,” she said, starting to slide down from the rocks into the rough ocean.

“Wait!” Melanie cried. “How can we be related when you are a creature of the water and I’m, well, I’m afraid of it!”

“Afraid of the water?” Melinda said. “You must be joking.”

“I know how to swim, but the big ocean waves scare me,” Melanie admitted. “I always think they will push me under and I won’t be able to swim away.”

Melinda smiled. “Who better to help you get over your fears than a mermaid? Meet me next Thursday at exactly this spot, and I will help you get over your fear. We can talk more then as well.”

Melanie quickly agreed and waved good-bye. Melinda answered with a flip of her shiny tail. It was almost too incredible to be true—incredible, but at the same time also exciting. Somehow, Melanie knew right then and there that this summer wasn’t going to be boring after all. In fact, it was going to be the most awesome summer of her life.

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Reading

- 1 How does Melanie’s yelling at the beginning of the passage affect the sequence of events? Support your answer with details from the passage.

- 2 Mark the boxes to show which is true for each character. Some rows may have more than one answer.

	Melinda	Melanie
Afraid of the water		
Has a shiny tail		
Related to Grandma Rosalie		

- 3 Read the sentence from the passage.

“Anyway, we mermaids are very adaptable, and we sometimes choose to be human.”

If the word *adapt* means “to change,” what does the word adaptable **most likely** mean?

- (A) slow to change
 (B) able to change easily
 (C) changing all the time
 (D) never changing at all

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Reading

- 4 How are Melanie and Melinda alike?
- (A) They both have a family secret.
 - (B) They both are on summer vacation.
 - (C) They both have red hair, green eyes, and freckles.
 - (D) They both love to swim, splash, and play in the ocean.
- 5 Why does Melinda want Melanie to take a close look at her?
- (A) She wants to show her swimming skills.
 - (B) She wants Melanie to admire her shiny tail.
 - (C) She wants Melanie to see that they are related.
 - (D) She wants to hide her impatience from Melanie.
- 6 This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A

How does meeting Melinda affect Melanie?

- (A) Melanie feels excited about the future.
- (B) Melanie doesn't want to learn to swim.
- (C) Melanie is upset that she is related to a mermaid.
- (D) Melanie is nervous about introducing Melinda to her family.

Part B

Which detail from the passage **best** supports the answer to part A?

- (A) Melanie worries that the ocean waves will push her under the water.
- (B) Melanie thinks this will be the most awesome summer of her life.
- (C) Melanie and Melinda make plans to meet on Thursday.
- (D) Melinda flips her tail as she swims away.

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Writing

- 7 Which sentence is written correctly?
- (A) Aunt Marie read my favorite book to the class.
 - (B) Aunt marie read My favorite book to the class.
 - (C) Aunt Marie read my favorite Book to the class.
 - (D) Aunt marie read my favorite book to the Class.
- 8 Which sentence is written correctly?
- (A) My friend Susan and I went to the movies last week with her mother, Dr. Hamilton.
 - (B) My Friend susan and I went to the movies last week with her mother, dr. hamilton.
 - (C) My friend susan and I went to the movies last week with her mother, Dr. Hamilton.
 - (D) My Friend Susan and I went to the movies last week with her mother, dr. Hamilton.
- 9 Jamal is reading a book about sharks. Which title of the book is written correctly?
- (A) Sharks and the sea
 - (B) sharks and the Sea
 - (C) sharks And The Sea
 - (D) Sharks and the Sea
- 10 Read the paragraph. Underline the **two** words that are spelled incorrectly.

Bob and his brother went to the store. They bought a lode of potatoes and carrots. They bought cookies and milk. When they got hoam, their mother was very happy. She thanked them for their hard work.