

Solutions

1. A – Three people make the perfect friendship group.

At the beginning of the story, Annie reflects on how she has always believed that three is the ideal number for a friendship group. She explains that with three friends there is always someone to talk to, work with or walk home with. This belief makes it even more upsetting when she begins to feel excluded.

2. B – They begin whispering to each other and stop talking when Annie approaches.

The first signs that something has changed are small but noticeable. Annie observes that Daliah and Susie frequently whisper to one another and suddenly stop talking whenever she joins them. Although they tell her it is "nothing important," this behaviour makes Annie feel suspicious and left out.

3. C – Persuaded.

The word *convinced* means *persuaded*. Annie tries to persuade herself that she is imagining the changes in her friendships and that nothing is really wrong. However, as more unusual incidents occur, she finds it harder to believe this explanation.

4. D – Their explanation does not seem believable.

When Annie sees Daliah secretly hand Susie a folded piece of paper, Daliah quickly claims that it is "just homework." Annie finds this difficult to believe because there seems to be no reason to pass homework secretly. This adds to her growing suspicion that the two girls are hiding something from her.

5. B – She decides to stop trying so hard to be included.

This is an important turning point in the story. Rather than continuing to chase after her friends, Annie decides to spend time with other classmates instead. This shows that her feelings of disappointment have become so strong that she begins to accept what she believes is the end of their friendship.

6. C – They are secretly organising Annie's birthday surprise.

Throughout the story, Annie misunderstands many of Daliah and Susie's actions. The library visits, shopping bags, whispered conversations and secret notes all seem suspicious to Annie, but they are actually part of the preparations for her surprise birthday party. The author uses these clues to mislead both Annie and the reader until the surprise is revealed.

7. D – She begins spending time with other classmates instead.

Although Annie feels hurt, she does not become angry or confront her friends. Instead, she quietly begins sitting with different classmates during lunch and enjoys getting to know Emily and Grace. This shows that Annie tries to move forward rather than causing an argument.

8. A – Shocked.

When Annie walks into the classroom on her birthday, she expects an ordinary school day. Instead, she is greeted by balloons, decorations, presents and everyone shouting "Surprise!" The text says that she stands "frozen in the doorway," showing just how surprised and shocked she is.

9. B – It is better to ask questions than make assumptions.

Mrs Carter explains the main lesson of the story: when people do not know the full story, they often fill in the missing information themselves, and those assumptions are not always correct. Annie assumed that her friends no longer liked her, when in reality they were working hard to make her birthday special.

10. C – Because stopping before the end can lead to misunderstanding the whole story.

In the final paragraph, Annie compares friendships to books. If you stop reading halfway through a book, you may completely misunderstand how the story ends. Similarly, Annie almost believed her friendship had ended because she judged the situation before she knew the whole truth. This comparison reinforces the story's main message: avoid making assumptions and be patient before reaching conclusions.