

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.
Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

Cousin on the Court

CHARACTERS

CARTER: A nine-year-old boy

MARCUS and RUBEN: Boys on Carter's basketball team

SAM: Carter's cousin

SCENE 1

- 1 *[The curtain opens. Carter, Marcus, and Ruben are sitting on the bench at an empty park basketball court, rolling a basketball back and forth.]*
- 2 **RUBEN:** I can't believe David is going to miss our basketball tournament.
- 3 **MARCUS:** Why did his family have to go on vacation now? The tournament is this Saturday! It's too late to find anyone good to fill his spot.
- 4 **RUBEN:** I don't know anyone. Mike is no good at basketball. Abe is good, but he sprained his ankle playing soccer.
- 5 **CARTER:** I know someone who might be able to help us. My cousin is coming to town tomorrow to visit for two weeks. Sam is awesome at basketball.
- 6 **RUBEN:** That's a great idea!
- 7 **MARCUS:** A great idea? If we want to win the tournament, we can't fill the spot with just anybody. How do we know your cousin is any good?
- 8 **CARTER:** Let's hold a tryout. I'll bring Sam here tomorrow, and you can see for yourself.
- 9 **MARCUS:** I guess we can try it, but this kid had better be good.
- 10 **CARTER:** Great! I'll see you guys tomorrow.

11 [Ruben and Marcus wave good-bye. Close curtain.]

SCENE 2

12 [The curtain opens. Carter and Sam are playing basketball at the park basketball court. Sam is wearing a baseball cap.]

13 [Ruben and Marcus walk onstage as Sam makes a basket.]

14 **RUBEN:** [To Marcus.] Carter was right. Sam is good.

15 **MARCUS:** We'll see.

16 [As Marcus and Ruben approach, Sam pulls off the cap. Long hair falls to Sam's shoulders. Marcus and Ruben stare.]

17 **MARCUS:** [To Carter.] I thought you said you were bringing your cousin Sam to practice!

18 **SAM:** [To Marcus.] Nice to meet you too. Marky, is it? I'm Carter's cousin Sam. Sam's short for Samantha.

19 **MARCUS:** I'm Marcus, not Marky. Only my grandma calls me that. This isn't going to work. [Marcus glares at Sam.] No way am I playing in the tournament with a girl.

20 **RUBEN:** Come on, Marcus! What choice do we have? Besides, she's good!

21 **CARTER:** At least give her a chance.

22 [Marcus shakes his head no.]

23 **SAM:** If you don't think I'm competent to play on your team, give me a chance to prove my ability.

24 **MARCUS:** How?

25 **SAM:** I challenge you to a game. The first person to make seven points wins. If I win, I play in the tournament. If you win, I don't. Sound fair?

26 [Marcus snorts.]

27 **MARCUS:** This'll be easy.

- 28 **SAM:** Yeah, I think so, too.
- 29 [*Sam grins at Marcus, who frowns in return.*]
- 30 **MARCUS:** You're on. Let's flip a coin to see who gets the ball first.
- 31 [*Carter digs in his pocket and pulls out a quarter.*]
- 32 **CARTER:** Sam, call the toss.
- 33 [*Carter tosses the quarter in the air.*]
- 34 **SAM:** Heads!
- 35 [*Carter, Marcus, Ruben, and Sam all gather around the coin on the ground.*]
- 36 **SAM:** I go first!
- 37 [*Sam takes the ball to the half-court line as Marcus prepares to defend the basket.*]
- 38 **MARCUS:** Yes—let's see.
- 39 **SAM:** Just try to score one point, at least.
- 40 [*Sam dribbles to the three-point line and makes the shot. She hands Marcus the ball with a smile.*]
- 41 **RUBEN:** Three to nothing, Marcus!
- 42 **MARCUS:** I know! I know!
- 43 [*Sam grins and steals the ball as Marcus dribbles. She steps behind the three-point line and makes another shot.*]
- 44 **CARTER:** And that's six.
- 45 **RUBEN:** Marcus, are you going to score at all?
- 46 **MARCUS:** Watch this!
- 47 [*Marcus dribbles the ball between his legs and quickly approaches the basket. He jumps up to put the ball in the basket, but Sam smacks it out of his hands.*]
- 48 **MARCUS:** What? Foul!

- 49 **CARTER:** That was no foul, Marcus. She never touched you! I saw it.
- 50 **MARCUS:** Fine! Let's play.
- 51 *[Marcus frowns as Sam approaches with the ball. As she makes a motion to his right, Marcus sticks out his leg. Sam passes the ball between his legs, grabs it, and makes a basket.]*
- 52 **RUBEN:** That's the game!
- 53 *[Marcus lowers his head and sulks.]*
- 54 **CARTER:** I told you she was good.
- 55 **MARCUS:** I can't believe Sam won.
- 56 *[Sam gives him the ball.]*
- 57 **SAM:** Why? Because I'm a girl?
- 58 **MARCUS:** Yes. I mean, no. I mean . . . Well, O.K., you're on the team.
- 59 **SAM:** Oh, I don't think so.
- 60 **MARCUS:** What do you mean?
- 61 **SAM:** Well, you wouldn't appreciate my talents. Since I'm a girl and all.
- 62 **CARTER:** *[To Sam.]* Well, thanks for trying out.
- 63 **SAM:** *[To Carter.]* See you at the house. *[She picks up her baseball cap and walks off.]*
- 64 **RUBEN:** Good job, Marcus. Now what do we do?
- 65 **MARCUS:** Hey, Carter, does she have a sister in town?
- 66 *[The curtain closes.]*

- 18** Which of the following best explains why Sam refuses to play in the tournament?
- F SAM:** Yeah, I think so, too.
 - G SAM:** Why? Because I'm a girl?
 - H SAM:** Oh, I don't think so.
 - J SAM:** Well, you wouldn't appreciate my talents. Since I'm a girl and all.
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- 19** What does the word competent mean in paragraph 23?
- A** Having the necessary skills
 - B** Describing something in a believable way
 - C** Showing the proper respect
 - D** Trying to make improvements
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- 20** How does Ruben contribute to the plot of the play?
- F** He supports Carter's decision to invite Sam to play with the team.
 - G** He thinks of a friend who could play with the team.
 - H** He keeps score when Marcus shoots baskets against Sam.
 - J** He asks Marcus to think of a way to solve their problem.

- 21** Which line from the play supports the idea that Marcus has changed the way he feels about having a female player on the team?
- A** **MARCUS:** I guess we can try it, but this kid had better be good.
 - B** **MARCUS:** Fine! Let's play.
 - C** **MARCUS:** I can't believe Sam won.
 - D** **MARCUS:** Hey, Carter, does she have a sister in town?

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- 22** The playwright creates a surprise by —
- F** giving Carter's cousin a name that can be used for a boy
 - G** revealing that David can't play in the tournament
 - H** allowing Sam to make up the rules of the challenge
 - J** having Carter's cousin come to visit for two weeks

- 23** Sam’s dialogue with Marcus in Scene 2 suggests that she —
- A** tries to avoid playing basketball against boys
 - B** believes that other basketball players are accepting of her
 - C** knows that she is a skilled basketball player
 - D** lacks the patience to teach basketball to others

24 Which of the following is the best summary of the play?

- F** Marcus and his teammates need to find someone to replace a player who is going away on vacation. The boys bring up the names of two friends, but one is injured, and the other is not a good basketball player. Finally Carter suggests asking his cousin Sam to play on the team in a tournament.
- G** A basketball team needs to find a new player in time for a tournament on Saturday. Carter suggests using his cousin, and Marcus agrees to the idea of having a tryout. Marcus objects when he sees that Sam is a girl, but then she proves that she is a better player than he expected.
- H** A basketball team needs a new player and decides to let Carter’s cousin Sam try out. Carter and Sam are already at the court when Marcus and Ruben arrive. Ruben watches Sam make a basket and agrees that she is a good player.
- J** Marcus agrees to play a basketball game against Carter’s cousin Sam. If Sam wins the game, she will get to play with the team in the upcoming tournament. Sam gets the ball first and scores an easy three-point shot, but Marcus can’t score at all.

25 What lesson does Marcus learn in the play?

- A** Winning is not as important as friendship.
- B** Working together helps team members improve.
- C** Problems can be solved with hard work.
- D** People should not be quick to judge others.