Today, you will read two stories titled “Maybe a Fight” and “Sheila Rae’s Peppermint Stick.” As you read, think about the actions of the characters and the events of the stories. Answer the questions to help you write an essay.

Read the story titled “Maybe a Fight” by Jean Little. Then answer Questions 1 through 3.
Maybe a Fight

Emily and I were about to have a fight. I could feel it in the air, like a thundersstorm coming. I was in a foul mood and she was feeling much the same. It was going to happen any minute.

Yet I didn't feel strong enough to get good and mad and then go to the trouble of making peace. We were going to end up barely speaking for at least two days and we'd both hate it. It's terrible, when you are dying to talk, to have just made a vow never to speak to the other person again.

"Emily Blair," I said, struggling with my conflicting emotions, "are you trying to pick a fight with me?"

"I wasn't, but I will, if that's what you're after," she growled.

Then, in the nick of time, my mother walked in. She looked from me to Emily and back again. Then she plugged in the kettle. "What's wrong with you two?" she asked.

We didn't answer. We glowered. By now, we knew we had gone too far to back down. The fight had as good as started.

Mother pulled out a chair and sat down. "Why don't you both just pitch in and start calling each other names?" she said. "If you hurry you can get it out of your systems before the kettle boils. Then we can all have some tea. Kate, you begin."

"Why me?" I yelped, feeling like an idiot.

"Because you are the hostess, of course. Tell her she's two-faced and bossy and preachy. Go on, Kate. Do I have to dictate your entire part?"

"But she isn't. Not two-faced anyway," I said. "And we're
both bossy sometimes...” I ground to a halt.

Emily had started getting out the tea things.

“When I’m preachy, you have it coming,” she said, over her shoulder.

The kettle began to sing. Emily poured boiling water into the teapot. She kept her back turned.

All at once, I knew I was going to laugh. No matter how hard I tried not to, I could feel giggles bubbling up inside me. I chuckled. Mother joined in. And when Emily turned around, she was wearing this silly grin.

“Be careful. It’s hot,” she instructed, handing us each our mug. Then, holding her own aloft, she said, “To us, champion lightweight battlers of Riverside!”

“Don’t forget me,” my mother said. “I did most of the work.” Then she took a swallow, instead of just pretending like Emily, and burned her tongue.

Afterwards I asked Emily, “Did we have a fight or didn’t we?”

“Weren’t you there?” was all she would answer.
1. Part A

What does glowered mean as it is used in paragraph 6 of “Maybe a Fight?”

a. Smiled  
b. Feeling weak  
c. Looking angry  
d. Frightened

Part B

Which statement best supports the answer to Part A?

a. “We didn’t answer... The fight had as good as started”  
b. “All at once I knew I was going to laugh.”  
c. “I could feel it in the air like a thunderstorm coming.”  
d. “Yet I didn’t feel strong enough to get good and mad....”

2. Part A

In Paragraph 2 Kate knows that she and Emily are about to start a fight. How does she feel about this?

a. Happy  
b. Angry  
c. Confused  
d. Stupid

Part B

Which detail from “Maybe a Fight” supports the answer to Part A?

b. “I could feel the giggles bubbling up inside me.”  
c. “We were going to end up barely speaking for at least two days and we’d both hate it.”  
d. “I was in a foul mood and she was feeling much the same.”
3. Part A

Read this statement from the Paragraph 7 of the story.

"Why don’t you both just pitch in and start calling each other names?"

This sentence shows Kate’s mom being sarcastic. Why is she being sarcastic?

a. She likes it when she hears them calling each other names.
b. She just wants to drink her tea.
c. She thinks it’s silly for them to fight with each other.
d. She’s angry that they are arguing.

Part B

Which detail from the story best supports the answer to Part A?

a. “then we can all have some tea.”
b. “to us, champion lightweight battlers of Riverside!”
c. “What’s wrong with you two?”
d. “Tell her she’s...two-faced, bossy and preachy.”
Read the story titled “Sheila Rae’s Peppermint Stick” by Kevin Henkes. Then answer questions 4 through 6.
Sheila Rae's Peppermint Stick
By Kevin Henkes

Sheila Rae had a peppermint stick.
It was long.
And striped.
And thin.
And sweet.

Louise wanted it.
"Please?" she said.

"You can have one lick,
if you can guess
how many stripes there are,"
said Sheila Rae.

Louise thought and thought and thought.
"Thirteen – seven," she said.
"Wrong!" said Sheila Rae. "Too bad."

"Please?" said Louise.
"You can have one lick,
if you can reach it,"
said Sheila Rae.
Sheila Rae climbed onto a stool
and some pillows
and some books.

Louise sighed. "Too high."
"If I had two, I'd give you one,"
said Sheila Rae. "But I don't. Too bad."

Just then Sheila Rae stumbled.
The books fell.
The pillows fell.
The stool tipped over.
The peppermint stick
broke in half.
"Now there are two!"
said Louise.

Sheila Rae had a peppermint stick.
   It was short.
   And striped.
   And thin.
   And sweet.
   And Louise had one, too.

"I WAS GOING TO GIVE YOU SOME ALL ALONG!"
4. Part A

What does **stumbled** mean as it is used in paragraph 7 of “Sheila Rae’s Peppermint Stick”?

a. jumped  
b. fell down  
c. teased  
d. yelled

Part B

Which statement best supports the answer to Part A?

a. “‘Wrong!’ said Sheila Rae. ‘Too bad.’”  
b. “Sheila Rae climbed onto a stool.”  
c. “You can have one lick, if you can reach it,...”  
d. “The pillows fell. The stool tipped over.”

5. Part A

In paragraph 6 Louise can’t reach the peppermint stick. How do you think she feels about not being able to reach it?

a. excited  
b. angry  
c. frustrated  
d. happy
Part B

Which detail from “Sheila Rae’s Peppermint Stick” supports the answer to Part A?

a. “Louise wanted it.”
b. “Louise sighed. ‘Too high.’”
c. “Now there are two!”
d. “I was going to give you some all along!”
6. This story tells us about two friends fighting over a peppermint stick. Write Louise’s journal entry about the fight that she had with Sheila Rae over the peppermint stick. Include information about the events of the story and how the character might have felt about the events.
Refer to the stories “Maybe a Fight” and “Sheila Rae’s Peppermint Stick” to answer Questions 7 and 8.

7. In “Sheila Rae’s Peppermint Stick” and “Maybe a Fight,” Sheila Rae and Louise, and Kate and Emily almost get into arguments. Write an essay that explains how both conflicts were resolved before they turned into full blown fights.
8. In “Sheila Rae’s Peppermint Stick” and “Maybe a Fight”, the conflicts were solved in unique ways. Write an essay that explains how each conflict was solved in a unique way. Use details from the story to explain why each resolution was unique.