Realistic Fiction

Practice

Read the short story below. Print this page and then write your answers.

A Race to the Finish

“Oh no!” Jerrod Banta cried. Everywhere he looked, neon yellow posters proclaimed, “Caitlin Currie for Class President!” They were in the hallways, in the library, and even next to the menu in the cafeteria. Jerrod couldn’t find any of his own posters anywhere. They were gone, all of them. He felt as if someone had erased all the songs from his music player.

“It's not fair,” he complained to his oldest sister Joan that evening. They had arranged a video call on the computer. He was in his bedroom in Atlanta, while Joan was at an Internet café in Africa. “The school election is tomorrow,” Jerrod explained. “I don’t have time to put up new posters. Caitlin cheated!”

“It doesn’t sound like she cheated to me,” Joan said. “She just planned her campaign better than you did.”

“Now I’ll never get elected class president,” Jerrod moaned. He looked at the computer screen. Behind his sister, bright morning sunlight streamed through the coffee shop’s windows. “Wait!” Jerrod exclaimed. “I’ve got an idea!”

Joan shrugged as her brother closed the video connection. He opened another program on the computer and began typing like a madman. Before long, he had created another poster. Above a photo of his happiest face, a cartoon bubble read, “Good morning, classmates! Hey! Don’t forget to vote today . . . for ME, Jerrod Banta!”

Jerrod attached the poster to an e-mail and sent it to all his friends with instructions to forward it to all their friends. He knew that everyone checked their e-mail before school. When they did, they’d see his new poster.

Jerrod smiled as if he’d already won the election. Even if they didn’t vote for him, he thought, at least the message might make them smile too. That in itself would be a job well done.
Name ________________________________

1. How does the character in this story respond to challenges? List the text clues that helped you determine this.

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2. What is the theme of this selection?

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