

USING CONTEXT

INSTRUCTIONS

Read the story and answer the questions that follow.

Maren and Zack

Maren and Zack seemed so different. Maren was born in a

small town in Montana, loved math, and ate peanut butter for breakfast. She wore an orange hat to school every day and had a pet hamster named Milkshake.

Zack was born in New York City and preferred poetry. He wore plain white shirts and brown shoes, and liked to read in the morning. He often fed a squirrel that lived in a pine tree next door.

Maren and Zack were different, but they were good friends. They both lived in Portland, Maine, and went to the same school.

They played dodgeball during recess and sat next to each other during lunch.

“Maren is fun,” said Zack. “She and I both play with a gray cat that lives near our school. Maren is better at soccer than I am; she hardly ever trips. But I’m better at checkers than she is. We seem to like the same things.”

This made Maren smile. “Zack is cool,” she said, twisting on her heel. “He’s always in a good mood, and he’s nice to everyone. Plus, he can play the guitar as well as our music teacher.”

Zack planned to try out for the school play the following week. “I have to stay an hour after school every day for rehearsal,” he said. “My parents said it’s okay. I hope Maren tries out too.”

“I might, but I’m scared to be on stage in front of everyone. My mom says I have stage fright,” she said, as she pulled her hat down over her forehead.

“Most people do,” Zack said. “But we can be nervous together!”

USING CONTEXT

1. In the second paragraph, the passage says that Zack wears plain white shirts. What does the word *plain* mean?
 - a. clean
 - b. dark
 - c. simple
 - d. free
2. Zack says that Maren hardly ever trips while playing soccer. What does the word *trip* mean in this context?
 - a. To go on vacation
 - b. To fall down
 - c. To score
 - d. To skip
3. Zack says that if he is in the play, he will have to stay after school for rehearsal. Write what the word *rehearsal* means.

4. What context clues from the passage did you use to prepare your answer to question 3?
