

At the meeting, one neighbor was shouting. "I've had enough," he said. "This neighborhood has too many potholes." Other people clapped. They agreed with the neighbor.

"We can't fill in all the potholes until we know where they are," said the Alderman. "Please tell me when you see one. Then I promise I will get it fixed. I need you to help me to help your community."

"What about the snow plowing," a woman asked. "No one came to plow our street. We had to do it ourselves."

"There was so much snow, that we could not get to the side streets quickly," the Alderman answered. "But they are going to try to do a better job next time."

"Let's talk about progress," the local librarian said. "Are we going to get the new library building?"

"I think we need a new park, first," said a parent.

"A library is more important than a park," she answered.

"No, it's not. You're wrong. You're thinking about yourself."

"Wait, now," said the Alderman. This ward belongs to everyone. And both will help. We need the park. We need the library. And we need more. I'm trying to get it all. But we're starting with the library. We don't have space for the books in the old one. We need a computer area, too."

"I'm angry," the parent said. "I wanted the park first. I'm going to vote for someone else to be alderman next time."

"Let's all work together," a teacher said. "This is about what we all need and want. We have a great community. Let's work together."

Identify, analyze, and infer relationships – Fiction

Questions developed by Center for Urban Education for use by Chicago Public Schools 2008-2009.

Choose the best answer for each question.

1. How do the people at the meeting feel about the Alderman?

- a. They want the Alderman to help them.
- b. They do not like the Alderman.
- c. They are grateful to the Alderman.
- d. They are angry with the Alderman.

3. How does the librarian feel about the neighbor who wants the new park?

- a. angry
- b. sorry
- c. silly
- d. happy

2. What does the Alderman want the people to do?

- a. vote
- b. cooperate
- c. call
- d. change

4. How does the teacher feel about the neighborhood?

- a. angry
- b. sad
- c. proud
- d. cooperate

5. *Write your own answer to this question. Why would a parent want to have a new park?*

TEACHER NOTES: Develop Students’ Skills: Exercise Thinking

These questions have not been validated, so decisions about student’s achievement should not be made based on their responses. They are intended to exercise skills. Recommended activities include: students work in pairs to choose the best response; give students the questions without the responses so they generate their own answers; students make up additional questions; students make up questions like these for another passage.

Answers: *You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.*

Item	1	2	3	4
Answer	a	b	a	c

Question 5 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.
The parent cares about children having a place to play.