

It was Friday. The football game was Saturday. We were very excited. My brother was going to be the quarterback for our team. It was the first time he would be in that position. He had been hoping to be quarterback ever since he joined the team. He said, “That’s the big job. That’s the one that makes the big difference.”

My mother said, “Be careful, son. That’s the big target, too. You know the other players want to sack you. You can get hurt.”

“Don’t worry. I’m tough. And I’m fast. And I have great players who will block them.”

That night I couldn’t sleep well. I worried about my brother. My mother was right. He could get hurt.

The next morning, he left early to get to the game. When we got there it was about to start. The team ran out on the field. He looked great. He saw us and waved.

Then it started. They were playing hard. One player in particular from the other team kept rushing at him. Then it happened. He knocked my brother down. My brother was slow to get up. My mother was screaming. The coach ran out on the field. He told my brother to take some time on the bench. He was afraid he had been hurt.

My mother ran down to check on my brother. But all he did was smile. “It’s just a bruise. I’m fine. And don’t worry, I’ll be back. This is great. I love leading the team.”

My mother was so worried then, but my brother was right. He plays quarterback every Saturday. She can’t go to the games. She just waits at home and hopes to see him walking in smiling.

## Identify, analyze, and infer motive - Fiction

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

*Choose the best answer for each question.*

1. Why did the mother worry about her son?

- a. He was a target.
- b. He was a quarterback.
- c. He was a good runner.
- d. He was a football player.

3. Why didn't the mother go back to the next games?

- a. She was angry.
- b. She was sad.
- c. She was worried.
- d. She was busy.

2. Why did her son want to be a quarterback?

- a. to be a hero
- b. to play football
- c. to have an important role
- d. to win the game

4. Why did the brother keep playing football after he was hurt?

- a. He wanted to be important.
- b. He wanted to be a leader.
- c. He wanted to win games.
- d. He wanted to show off.

5. *Write your own answer to this question. Do you think that the sister went to more games? Why would she make that choice?*

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### 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	c	c	b

Question 5 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.  
She probably did because she was so proud of her brother.