

Dribbling Around Answer Key

1. Literal (Right There):

What did Maya's coach tell her before the game?

→ "Stay calm, trust your team, and take the shot when it's yours."

2. Inference (Think & Search):

Why did Maya decide to pass the ball instead of taking the shot herself?

→ She trusted her teammate, saw they were open, and knew it gave the team the best chance to win.

3. Vocabulary in Context:

What does the sentence "Her heart pounded like a drum" mean in this passage?

→ It means Maya was very nervous and excited; her heartbeat was strong and fast.

4. Author's Craft:

How does the author build excitement in the last paragraph of the story?

→ By describing the action in short, dramatic steps (passing, jumping, swishing the ball, buzzer sounding) and showing the crowd's reaction. This pacing creates suspense.

5. Theme / Main Idea:

What lesson does Maya learn about teamwork? Do you agree with her choice? Why or why not?

→ She learns that teamwork and sharing success can feel even better than doing it alone.

→ (Answers will vary, but strong responses should connect to the idea of trust, cooperation, or selflessness.)

Teacher Note: Question 5 is open-ended, so look for students giving thoughtful support for their opinion.