



Student/Classroom: \_\_\_\_\_ Examiner: \_\_\_\_\_ Assessment Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### The Challenge

In the story “The Challenge,” Jose tries to get the attention of Estela, a new girl at his middle school. Hoping to appear as bright as **(Estela)**, Jose applies himself to his homework. **(But)** Estela seems to pay no attention. **(When)** Jose scrapes his chin in a **(bicycle)** accident, he hopes Estela will take **(pity)** on him. But Estela is absent **(from)** school and soon the injury heals.

**(In)** the school lunchroom, Jose discovers that **(Estela)** plays racquetball. Though he knows nothing **(about)** the game, Jose boasts that he **(is)** a winning racquetball player and challenges **(her)** to a game. Estela, whose nickname **(is)** Stinger, agrees to meet Jose at **(the)** racquetball court the next day.

After **(school)**, Jose bikes to his uncle Freddie’s **(s)** house for advice. Freddie loans him **(a)** racket, shows Jose how to hold **(it)**, and explains some rules of the **(game)**. Jose practices using a tennis ball, **(but)** finds it difficult. He hopes that **(playing)** with a racquetball the next day **(will)** be easier.

Estela shows up for **(their)** game wearing sweats and goggles. As **(she)** warms up, Jose realizes that she **(is)** an expert player. When he serves, **(he)** hits the ball into the ground. **(As)** they play, Estela racks up one **(point)** after another. Jose misses, drops his **(racket)**, and gets hit with one of **(Estela’s)** stinging shots. She wins twenty-one **(to)** zero and Jose feels miserable. When **(he)** returns the racket to his uncle, **(he)** admits that Estela – Stinger – is a **(good)** player. He begins to lift weights **(on)** the slight chance that she might **(challenge)** him again.



Student Name: _____ Classroom: _____ Date: _____
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### The Challenge

In the story “The Challenge,” Jose tries to get the attention of Estela, a new girl at his middle school. Hoping to appear as bright as **(Estela, never, early)**, Jose applies himself to his homework. **(But, Act, Box)** Estela seems to pay no attention. **(When, Witty, Crime)** Jose scrapes his chin in a **(wire, bicycle, weakly)** accident, he hopes Estela will take **(knot, delightful, pity)** on him. But Estela is absent **(curious, dangerous, from)** school and soon the injury heals.

**(In, Sleep, Joyously)** the school lunchroom, Jose discovers that **(chosen, Estela, reduce)** plays racquetball. Though he knows nothing **(foolishly, about, example)** the game, Jose boasts that he **(is, notwithstanding, shirt)** a winning racquetball player and challenges **(witty, her, muscle)** to a game. Estela, whose nickname **(is, stormy, test)** Stinger, agrees to meet Jose at **(whereas, the, deafening)** racquetball court the next day.

After **(school, plane, grab)**, Jose bikes to his uncle Freddie’s **(cord, s, sparkling)** house for advice. Freddie loans him **(steam, a, butter)** racket, shows Jose how to hold **(it, after, hullo)**, and explains some rules of the **(breathe, game, during)**. Jose practices using a tennis ball, **(hungry, but, comb)** finds it difficult. He hopes that **(playing, remember, hastily)** with a racquetball the next day **(er, substance, will)** be easier.

Estela shows up for **(their, observation, possess)** game wearing sweats and goggles. As **(develop, she, ray)** warms up, Jose realizes that she **(is, carefully, took)** an expert player. When he serves, **(choose, he, school)** hits the ball into the ground. **(As, Determined, Cause)** they play, Estela racks up one **(worried, point, knot)** after another. Jose misses, drops his **(busily, racket, neatly)**, and gets hit with one of **(Estels, fake, always)**’s stinging shots. She wins twenty-one **(to, weight, repair)** zero and Jose feels miserable. When **(he, complain, drink)** returns the racket to his uncle, **(he, drawer, politely)** admits that Estela – Stinger – is a



**(sense, head, good)**player. He begins to lift weights **(squealing, operation, on)** the slight chance that she might **(challenge, easy, ourselves)** him again.