**RL 5: I can analyze how a particular sentence contributes to the development of the setting.**

**Out with the Old**

Michaela had a habit of looking downward when she walked, concentrating on the angle of the curb, or counting cracks in the pavement. She knew precisely how many steps it was from her school to the front door of her apartment house. (1,745 if she took normal strides.) She was good with numbers, which was no big surprise, something she attributed to her parents’ influence. Back before they moved to America, her mother had been an accountant and her father had been a banker. But their country had not been safe, and so, one day four years ago, she came home from school to find suitcases at the front door and a car waiting outside to take them to the airport.

Now, her dad drove a cab, and her mother stayed home while her

English improved. Their life was so different now from the way it had been when she was little. Their apartment was small, just two rooms, no bigger than their old entry hall, and the floors were covered with plastic tiles, not with richly woven rugs. The furniture had been hauled in by her father, castoffs collected from wealthy neighborhoods. It included a reclining chair that let her sit at a 90° angle and an octagonal table. She missed her old bed with the gold mesh covering and her collection of stuffed animals.

But, still, deep down, she was happy they had moved. She loved the mix of people on the street, the different aromas from all the restaurants, the park just a few blocks (497 steps) from her front door.

1. Apparently the story takes place in

a. a foreign country.

b. an urban neighborhood.

c. a one-family house.

d. an elegant residence.

2. All the following are hints that Michaela’s former home was quite comfortable except:

a. the entry hall was the size of two rooms.

b. the bed had a gold mesh covering.

c. there were expensive rugs on the floor.

d. she had a collection of stuffed animals.

3. Before coming to her new country, Michaela had been surprised because of

a. her parents’ loss of good jobs.

b. the distance between home and school.

c. the abruptness of their departure.

d. the good smells from the restaurants nearby.

4. In the sentence, “It included a reclining chair that let her sit at a

90° angle and an octagonal table” it refers to the

a. neighborhood.

b. apartment.

c. furniture.

d. none of these.

5. Write a short description of how Michaela’s former home looks and feels.

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