Read the selection. Then answer the questions that follow.

For the Fun of It

The neighborhood children played soccer that summer on an empty, grassy field. The competition began by choosing up teams, and Matthew hated that. He was fast, but his big feet wouldn’t change directions easily. Matthew never anticipated being chosen first, but Katie always picked him early in the selection process. She was a terrific soccer player and scored lots of goals.

“How come you always choose me?” Matthew asked her. “My big clown feet won’t help us win.”

“Because it’s fun to have you on our team,” Katie said.

The players used huge cardboard boxes for their goals. One day Matthew’s dad drove up with goals made of plastic pipe and big netting. Everyone thanked him joyfully.

“It was Matthew’s idea,” Matthew’s father said. “He figured out how we could make them.”

Katie looked at Matthew with a proud smile.
Answer the questions below.

1. Why did Matthew dislike choosing sides for soccer teams?
   A. He knew that Katie would expect him to win the game.
   B. He thought choosing teams was a waste of time.
   C. He felt as if he was not good enough to be chosen early.
   D. He did not believe Katie really wanted him on her team.

2. What is most likely Katie’s main reason for playing soccer?
   F. to have fun with her friends
   G. to show off her soccer talent
   H. to have Matthew on her team
   J. to help Matthew learn to play better

3. Which is the best summary of this story’s plot?
   A. A father makes soccer goals that his son’s soccer team can use.
   B. Children in a neighborhood have to play soccer in an empty field.
   C. A boy finds a way to help his soccer team even though he isn’t a great player.
   D. A girl’s teammates think a boy is a poor soccer player, but she still picks him.

4. What can you learn from Katie’s actions in the story?

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Common Core State Standards

Questions 1, 2, 4: Literature 3. Describe how a particular story’s or drama’s plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution. Question 3: Literature 2. Determine a theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.