



Read the story carefully. Then answer each question in a full sentence.

Lumina's Choice



Leo, known as Lumina, moved through the city. His power let him bend light, creating shimmering shields or dazzling distractions. He usually used it to help small things, like guiding lost pigeons or making sure no one tripped on loose pavement. Today, though, felt different.

He was heading home from school when he saw a group of older kids surrounding his friend, Maya, near the old abandoned warehouse. They were laughing and trying to take her new, brightly colored backpack. Maya looked scared, clutching it tight. Lumina's heart pounded.

He knew he shouldn't reveal himself; his parents had warned him about the dangers. "Give it up, Maya!" one of the older kids sneered, reaching for the bag. Lumina felt a surge of anger and fear. His internal conflict raged: help Maya and risk everything, or walk away and let her be bullied? He remembered his father's words: "True power is used for justice, not just for show."



Taking a deep breath, Lumina focused. He created a shimmering, almost invisible light barrier between Maya and the bullies. It wasn't strong enough to hurt them, but it felt like hitting an invisible wall. The bullies stumbled back, confused. Then, Lumina projected a huge, shadowy figure behind them, making it seem like a giant was approaching.



The older kids gasped and ran, tripping over each other in their haste. Maya looked up, wide-eyed, seeing only the retreating figures. Lumina quickly dissolved the illusion, his energy feeling a little drained. He stepped out from



behind a dumpster. "Are you okay, Maya?" he asked, trying to sound normal. She nodded, still a bit shaky. "Thanks, Leo. I don't know what I would have done." Lumina smiled, knowing he had made the right choice, even if it was a close call.



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

(1) Who is the hero in the story and what special ability do they have?

(2) What problem or dilemma did Lumina face when he saw his friend Maya?

(3) Why did Lumina ultimately choose to help Maya, even though it was risky? Use evidence from the story.

(4) What does the word "dilemma" mean based on how it is used in the story?

(5) What does this story say about what it truly means to be a hero?

