In the book Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mulally Hunt, the readers are introduced to Ally Nickerson, a 6th grade girl who struggles with reading and writing, as well as fitting in with her classmates. One way I would describe Ally is lonely. For example, when the bus leaves without her, she says to herself “It’s okay, I deserve to walk, all that way home, alone.” All alone, Ally is left to find her way home. She has been to seven schools in seven years and seems to have a difficult time making friends. Another word to accurately describe Ally would be secretive. Based on what I read, I know that Ally is concerned about the principal, her mother, and her classmates finding out that she can’t read. According to the text Ally says “Oh no, do they know I can’t read?” when Shay and Jessica ask her to read the flavors of ice cream on the sign in the restaurant where Ally’s mom works as a waitress. This shows the reader that Ally is keeping her struggles a secret. Lastly, I would consider Ally to be protective. For example, when Shay and Jessica try to taunt Ally, and her mom encourages her to talk to them, Ally avoids telling her the real truth because she wants her mother to be happy. She wants to protect her mother from the truth about her troubles in school and with making friends.

Red = Answer question (character trait)

Green= Cite evidence

Underlined = Explanation of evidence

REMEMBER

USE (A.C. E.) when answering your written responses.