Larry

Larry and Charles had the same father, but different mothers. They were half-brothers. They lived on opposite sides of town. The boys spent many weekends together when they were both visiting their father. They had a lot in common. They both played baseball. Larry played for the Patuxent Pirates and Charles played for the Berrywood Blue Crabs. Both boys liked Batman. They both picked the pepperoni off of their pizza. Larry and Charles knew that they were only half-brothers, but they considered themselves to be 100% friends.

Both the Pirates and the Blue Crabs had very good seasons. Both teams won many games, and both teams were chosen to play the championship game. The winner of that game would be the best team in the state. Both Larry and Charles were very excited that weekend and eager to share their good news with their father.

“I’m very proud of you both,” their father said. “But do you realize that this means that you will be playing against each other?”

Larry’s eyes grew wide. “I guess that’s right!” he said. “I didn’t think of that!”

Charles’ shoulders fell. “Oh no!” he said. He looked at his father. “But I wanted you to root for me!”

Their father frowned. “I am going to root for you, Charles,” he said. He turned to Larry. “And I’m going to root for you too, Larry.”

“But we can’t both win,” Larry said. He wasn’t excited about the game anymore.

“And you can’t cheer for both teams,” Charles added. “I may not even play.”

“Of course you will play,” their father said. “You will both play, and you will both do your very best. And I will cheer for you both, and be proud of both of you. You worked very hard to get to play a championship game. That is something that you can celebrate together. And you can both be happy for the other one no matter which team wins. After all, you are brothers.”

Larry and Charles smiled at each other. “My coach always says that if you want to do something you have to do it 100%,” Larry said.

“My coach says that too!” Charles smiled.
Directions: Using the words provided below, answer the questions.

1. What character traits do Larry and Charles have in common?

________________________________________  ____________________________________

2. How does Larry feel when he first finds out he will be playing against his brother?

________________________________________

3. How does Charles feel when he first finds out he will be playing against his brother?

________________________________________

4. How does Larry feel when his father says he will root for both teams?

________________________________________

5. How does Charles feel when his father says he will root for both teams?

________________________________________

6. How do Larry and Charles feel when their father reminds them that they are brothers?

________________________________________

Athletic   Sullen
Happy      Disappointed
Friendly   Astonished
Depressed  

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