Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. Nia is showing centration, meaning she focuses on a single feature of the situation while ignoring the others. She attends only to the height of the liquid in the tall narrow cup and does not account for the fact that it is also narrower, which produces the classic conservation error Piaget described.

2. Conservation errors are a product of how the preoperational brain currently processes information rather than a gap in knowledge that explanation can fill. Piaget's stages resolve as the brain matures, so Nia will grasp conservation when she reaches concrete operational thought, and no amount of correct explanation moves that timeline.

Multiple Choice

1. B

2. A

3. D

Matching

1-E, 2-C, 3-D, 4-B, 5-A

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) guilt, 2) preoperational, 3) phonological

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: Asking questions is the primary way preschoolers build a working model of how the world operates, so repetition reflects active model-building rather than an attempt to annoy anyone. The stage is defined by initiative, and questions are the verbal form of that same drive to start things and find out what happens.

Q2: Symbolic thought is the ability to let one thing stand for another, which is exactly what happens when a stick becomes a sword. Reading and math run on the same machinery, since letters stand for sounds and numerals stand for quantities, so pretend play exercises the underlying capacity both academic skills depend on.

Q3: Conflicts with a peer of equal power force a child to negotiate, compromise, and repair a relationship without an adult simply deciding the outcome. Those skills cannot be transferred by instruction because they require practice against someone who will genuinely push back, so the disputes themselves are where the learning happens.