Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. Erikson describes this stage as autonomy versus shame and doubt, where the central task is discovering that the child is a separate person capable of acting on the world. Ellie was practicing exactly that skill, so an adult taking over the task removed the thing she was actually working on, which is why help registered as an insult.

2. The choice satisfied Ellie's drive for autonomy by giving her real power over a decision, while the adult kept the actual boundary in place since both options ended with the boots going on. It gave her the sense of control the stage demands without turning the boots themselves into the negotiation.

Multiple Choice

1. D

2. A

3. B

Matching

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

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) doubt, 2) 3, 3) parallel

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: Manipulation requires modeling another person's mind and planning strategically around it, and neither capacity is available to a two-year-old in full meltdown. A tantrum is a regulation failure in which feelings outrun an immature prefrontal cortex, so the child is overwhelmed rather than running any kind of strategy.

Q2: Toddlers understand far more language than they can produce, so a child can want something specific and have no words available to request it. That gap between receptive and expressive language creates intense frustration with no outlet, which is why tantrums reliably decline as vocabulary grows.

Q3: Toddlers test limits because testing is how they discover where the limits actually are. A boundary that holds one day and collapses the next teaches that the limit is negotiable and that persistence sometimes pays, so the child has a genuine reason to keep testing until the answer becomes predictable.