Raymond Mar, a psychologist at York University in Canada, performed an analysis of 86 fMRI studies, published last year in the Annual Review of Psychology, and concluded that there was substantial overlap in the brain networks used to understand stories and the networks used to navigate interactions with other individuals — in particular, interactions in which we’re trying to figure out the thoughts and feelings of others. Scientists call this capacity of the brain to construct a map of other people’s intentions “theory of mind.” Narratives offer a unique opportunity to engage this capacity, as we identify with characters’ longings and frustrations, guess at their hidden motives and track their encounters with friends and enemies, neighbors and lovers.

It is an exercise that hones our real-life social skills, another body of research suggests. Dr. Oatley and Dr. Mar, in collaboration with several other scientists, reported in two studies, published in 2006 and 2009, that individuals who frequently read fiction seem to be better able to understand other people, empathize with them and see the world from their perspective. This relationship persisted even after the researchers accounted for the possibility that more empathetic individuals might prefer reading novels.

**Consider each of the following examples.**

If you had used the article above as a source, would you need to use a citation with any of the passages? If so, why?

A) Reading enriches our lives.

B) Mar’s study determined that there was significant overlap in the neurological networks used to understand fiction and those used to manage interacting with other people - specifically, interacting when trying to determine what others are thinking and feeling.

C) Narratives offer a unique opportunity to engage this capacity, as we identify with characters’ longings and frustrations.

D) According to studies, the more you read literature, the better you will get at interpreting other people.

E) Researchers have shown that individuals who frequently read fiction seem to be better able to understand other people, empathize with them and see the world from their perspective.

F) People who don’t like to read will never be able to understand other people.

G) Reading fiction allows the reader to experience what is happening to the characters in a story.

H) Studies show that when we read about fictional characters, we become better at interacting with actual people.