4th grade story comprehension worksheet

4th grade reading · Literature · RL.4.1

Name _____ Date _____

For grown-ups: 9 questions from our 4th grade story comprehension practice, easier ones first. Read a question aloud if your child wants that, then check together with the answer key on page 3. Read the passage before the questions that go with it. Circle the letter of the best answer. Number the steps 1, 2, 3 in the order they happen.

The Map in the Attic

Rain hammered the roof as Jamal and his cousin Amara climbed the creaky attic stairs. Grandma had sent them up to find the holiday decorations, but Amara had other ideas.

"Look at this," she said, lifting the lid of a dusty trunk. Inside, under a stack of old photographs, was a folded piece of yellowed paper. Amara spread it on the floor. It was a hand-drawn map of Grandma's backyard, with a big X behind the oak tree.

"Treasure," Amara whispered.

Jamal was not so sure. "Grandma drew this when she was a kid. Anything she buried is probably mush by now."

But as soon as the rain stopped, they were outside with two shovels. The ground behind the oak was soft from the storm. Two feet down, Jamal's shovel clanked against something hard.

It was a metal lunchbox, rusted at the corners. Inside were a marble, a smooth blue stone, a photo of a girl with braids, and a note in careful handwriting: "To whoever finds this: I hope you have a wonderful life. From Rosa, age 9."

Grandma's name was Rosa.

That evening, they showed her the box. She laughed until she cried. "I forgot all about that," she said, turning the blue stone in her fingers. "I was saving the world's best skipping stone."

1. **Why did Jamal and Amara go to the attic?**

   A. To find a map
   B. To hide from the rain
   C. To find holiday decorations
   D. To look at photographs

2. **Who drew the map?**

   A. Amara, to trick Jamal
   B. Grandma, when she was a child
   C. A pirate who lived there long ago
   D. Jamal

3. **What does "yellowed" tell you about the paper?**

   A. It was painted yellow
   B. It was very old
   C. It was brand new
   D. It was wet

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4th grade reading · questions, continued

Questions about “The Map in the Attic”, continued

4. **How did Grandma feel when she saw the box?**

   A. Angry that they dug up the yard
   B. Happy and full of memories
   C. Worried about the rust
   D. Confused about what it was

5. **What does this passage suggest about Sofia?**

   > Sofia's teammates groaned when they lost. Sofia shook every player's hand on the other team. Then she asked the coach, "What can I practice this week?"

   A. She is a sore loser
   B. She wants to quit the team
   C. She is a good sport who wants to improve
   D. She does not care about winning

6. **In this passage, what does the word "hesitated" mean?**

   > Leo **hesitated** at the edge of the diving board. He looked down at the water, then back at the ladder, then down again. Finally he jumped.

   A. Jumped in right away
   B. Climbed higher
   C. Laughed and splashed
   D. Paused because he was unsure

7. **Put the story events in order.**

   - [ ] Mateo finds a wallet on the sidewalk
   - [ ] The owner thanks Mateo and offers a reward, which he refuses
   - [ ] Mateo looks inside for a name and address
   - [ ] Mateo and his mom drive to the address

8. **Order the events of Amara and Zoe's story from first to last.**

   - [ ] Amara apologizes to Zoe
   - [ ] Amara tells a secret Zoe asked her to keep
   - [ ] Zoe stops sitting with Amara at lunch
   - [ ] The two friends slowly start talking again
   - [ ] Amara realizes how much she hurt Zoe

9. **Which sentence best states the theme of this passage?**

   > Kenji spent his allowance on a fancy kite. Zoe made hers from a trash bag and two sticks. On the windy hill, both kites soared just as high. Kenji laughed. "I guess the wind doesn't care what it cost."

   A. Kites are hard to fly
   B. Trash bags make the best kites
   C. Expensive things are always better
   D. What something costs does not decide how well it works

Answer key: 4th grade story comprehension

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1. **C. To find holiday decorations**
   Grandma sent them up to find the holiday decorations.
2. **B. Grandma, when she was a child**
   The note was signed by Rosa, age 9, and Grandma's name is Rosa.
3. **B. It was very old**
   Paper turns yellow as it ages, so the map was old.
4. **B. Happy and full of memories**
   She laughed until she cried and remembered the skipping stone, showing joy and nostalgia.
5. **C. She is a good sport who wants to improve**
   Shaking hands and asking how to improve shows good sportsmanship and a desire to get better.
6. **D. Paused because he was unsure**
   Hesitated means paused because of being unsure. Leo looked back and forth before jumping.
7. **Top to bottom: 1, 4, 2, 3**
   Mateo finds the wallet, looks for the address, drives there, and then the owner thanks him.
8. **Top to bottom: 4, 1, 2, 5, 3**
   The secret is told, Zoe pulls away, Amara realizes the hurt, apologizes, and then they reconnect.
9. **D. What something costs does not decide how well it works**
   Both kites flew equally well, and Kenji's comment shows that price did not matter.