5th grade story comprehension worksheet

5th grade reading · Literature · RL.5.1

Name _____ Date _____

For grown-ups: 8 questions from our 5th 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, or the right word where there are no letters.

The Mural

The wall behind the school cafeteria had been gray for as long as anyone could remember. Then, in the spring of fifth grade, Amara decided it should not be.

She brought a sketch to Principal Diaz: a sunrise over the town, with every kind of kid walking toward it. Principal Diaz studied it for a long time. "This is beautiful," she said. "But a wall this size is a lot of work for one person."

"I won't be one person," Amara said, though she had not yet asked anyone.

That turned out to be the hard part. Her best friend Kenji said he could not draw. Priya said she was too busy with robotics. Noah just laughed.

So Amara started alone. Every day after school she painted one square foot. After a week she had a strip of orange sky and sore arms.

On the eighth day, Kenji showed up with a roller. "I can't draw," he said, "but I can fill in sky." On the tenth day, Priya brought a projector from the robotics room so they could trace the outlines at night. On the twelfth day, Noah arrived without a word and started mixing paint.

By the end of May, forty-one students had put a brush to the wall. At the unveiling, Principal Diaz asked Amara to say a few words.

Amara looked at the crowd. "I only drew the picture," she said. "Everybody else made it real."

1. **What was Principal Diaz's concern about the mural?**

   A. The wall belonged to the city
   B. It would cost too much
   C. The design was not good
   D. It was too much work for one person

2. **Which quote shows that Amara was determined?**

   A. "I won't be one person."
   B. "This is beautiful."
   C. "I can't draw."
   D. "Everybody else made it real."

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5th grade reading · questions, continued

Questions about “The Mural”, continued

3. **Why did Amara's friends change their minds and help?**

   A. They took art lessons and learned to draw well
   B. Principal Diaz told them they had to help her
   C. They saw her working hard alone and found ways they could contribute
   D. They wanted extra credit from their teachers

4. **What does Amara's final statement reveal about her?**

   A. She is humble and gives credit to others
   B. She thinks the mural is not finished
   C. She did not like the result
   D. She wishes she had done it alone

5. **Which sentence best describes the conflict in this passage?**

   > Kenji wanted to stay in the city, where his friends and his skate park were. His parents had just accepted jobs in a small mountain town four hundred miles away. The moving truck came in three weeks.

   A. Kenji cannot find the moving truck
   B. Kenji does not like his parents
   C. Kenji's friends are moving
   D. Kenji must move away from the life he loves

6. **What does the word "reluctantly" tell you about how Amara feels?**

   > Amara **reluctantly** handed over the last cookie to her little brother. He had asked nicely, after all, and she had already eaten four.

   A. She did not like cookies
   B. She was angry at her brother
   C. She was happy to share
   D. She did not really want to give it up

7. **True or false: Jamal's teammates forgive him.**

   > Jamal had missed the final shot. In the locker room, nobody spoke. Then Mateo tossed him a towel. "Next game," he said. One by one, the others nodded.

   ○ **True** ○ **False**

8. **Which quote best supports the idea that Maya has changed?**

   > Last year, Maya would have said, "That's not fair," and stormed off. This time she took a breath and said, "Can we talk about why you chose her instead of me?" The coach looked surprised, then nodded.

   A. "That's not fair."
   B. "Can we talk about why you chose her instead of me?"
   C. Last year, Maya would have stormed off.
   D. The coach looked surprised.

Answer key: 5th grade story comprehension

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1. **D. It was too much work for one person**
   She said a wall that size was a lot of work for one person.
2. **A. "I won't be one person."**
   She committed to finding helpers even before she had any, which shows determination.
3. **C. They saw her working hard alone and found ways they could contribute**
   Each friend showed up after seeing her work alone, bringing a skill that fit, like rolling sky or mixing paint.
4. **A. She is humble and gives credit to others**
   She downplays her own role and praises everyone else, which is humble.
5. **D. Kenji must move away from the life he loves**
   The conflict is between what Kenji wants (staying) and what is happening (moving far away).
6. **D. She did not really want to give it up**
   Reluctantly means unwillingly. She gave the cookie but did not really want to.
7. **True**
   Tossing the towel, saying "Next game," and the nods show the team is moving on together.
8. **B. "Can we talk about why you chose her instead of me?"**
   Asking a calm question instead of storming off shows how she has matured.