Author's Purpose

Grade 2 Reading Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

Read the text. Circle the best answer.

READ THIS FIRST

Colors After the Rain

Have you ever seen a rainbow after a rain shower? A rainbow forms when sunlight shines through tiny drops of water in the air. To see one, you need the sun behind you and the rain in front of you. Rainbows often appear in the late afternoon, when the sun is low.

Sunlight looks white, but it is really a mix of many colors. When light enters a raindrop, it bends. Each color bends a different amount, so the colors spread apart.

Next, the light hits the back of the raindrop. The back of the drop works like a tiny mirror. It bounces the colored light back toward the front. As the light leaves the drop, it bends again and the colors spread even more. Then the light travels to your eyes.

Millions of raindrops do this at the same time. Together, they make a giant curve of color across the sky. The colors always come in the same order. Red is on the top, and violet is on the bottom. Orange, yellow, green, and blue fill the space in between.

1. Why did the author include paragraph 3?
   - to explain how the light gets back out of the drop
   - to tell the order of a rainbow's colors from top
   - to explain what color sunlight really is inside

2. Which detail helps the author explain why a rainbow has many colors?
   - Rainbows often appear in the late afternoon, when the sun is low.
   - To see one, you need the sun behind you and the rain in front of you.
   - Sunlight looks white, but it is really a mix of many colors.

3. Why did the author include the sentence "Millions of raindrops do this at the same time"?
   - to show how one giant rainbow is made
   - to tell how big one raindrop is
   - to explain why red is on the top

4. How does the author help readers picture the back of a raindrop?
   - by saying it works like a tiny mirror
   - by saying it is shaped like a curve
   - by saying it is as round as a big ball

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Answer Key - Grade 2 Reading Worksheet

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