Literature Central Message

Grade 3 Reading Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer.

READ THIS FIRST

The Cracked Kite

Theo had a bright red kite with a long, curly tail. His best friend, Imani, loved it. On Saturday, Theo let Imani borrow it for the afternoon.

Imani ran across the park, and the kite climbed into the wind. Then a gust pulled it toward a tree. Crack! One of the thin wooden rods snapped in half.

Imani's face felt hot. She carried the kite home and hid it under her bed. "Maybe Theo will forget about it," she thought.

But Theo did not forget. On Monday he asked, "Can I have my kite back? My cousin is visiting, and we want to fly it."

Imani said, "I left it at home." It was true, but it was not the whole truth. All day, her stomach felt tight. She could not enjoy recess or lunch.

That night, Imani told her dad what happened. He listened and then said, "Hiding a problem doesn't make it smaller. It just makes it heavier to carry."

On Tuesday, Imani brought the kite to school. "I broke it, and I hid it," she told Theo. "I'm sorry." Theo was quiet for a moment. Then he said, "Thanks for telling me."

After school, Imani's dad helped them glue a new rod in place. The kite flew again that weekend. Imani felt lighter than the kite.

1. What is the central message of this story?
   A broken toy can always be glued back together.
   Friends should never borrow each other's things.
   Kites should only be flown on calm days.
   Telling the truth is better than hiding a mistake.

2. Which sentence states the lesson in a character's own words?
   Thanks for telling me.
   Maybe Theo will forget about it.
   Hiding a problem doesn't make it smaller.
   I left it at home.

3. Why did Imani's stomach feel tight all day on Monday?
   She ate too much lunch at school.
   She was nervous about meeting Theo's cousin.
   She had lost the kite somewhere in the park.
   She was keeping the broken kite a secret.

4. How does Imani change from Monday to Tuesday?
   She stops being friends with Theo.
   She learns how to fly a kite well.
   She stops hiding and tells the truth.
   She decides to buy Theo a new kite.

5. Which detail shows that Imani was not fully honest on Monday?
   She ran across the park with the kite.
   She said she left the kite at home.
   She told her dad what happened.
   She brought the kite to school.

6. Then a gust pulled it toward a tree. What does gust mean?
   a small branch of a tree a sudden rush of wind a long piece of string
   a loud crack of thunder

7. What does Dad mean when he says hiding a problem makes it heavier to carry?
   Keeping a secret makes you feel worse.
   Imani had to carry the kite all the way home.
   Broken things weigh more than new things.
   The kite got heavier the longer it was hidden.

8. What would most likely have happened if Imani kept hiding the kite?
   Theo's cousin would have bought a new kite.
   The kite would have been fixed by itself.
   She would have kept feeling worried.
   Theo would have forgotten about the kite.

9. How did Theo react when Imani told the truth?
   He thanked her for telling him.
   He said she could keep the kite.
   He asked his cousin for help.
   He yelled and ran away from her.

10. Which detail from the end shows how telling the truth made Imani feel?
    Imani felt lighter than the kite.
    Theo was quiet for a moment.
    The kite flew again that weekend.
    Her dad helped glue a new rod in place.

Scan to get this marked free. No screen time for your child.
Print it · do it in pencil · scan it · PencilGo picks the next sheet.

Literature Central Message

Answer Key - Grade 3 Reading Worksheet

Circle the answer.

READ THIS FIRST

The Cracked Kite

Theo had a bright red kite with a long, curly tail. His best friend, Imani, loved it. On Saturday, Theo let Imani borrow it for the afternoon.

Imani ran across the park, and the kite climbed into the wind. Then a gust pulled it toward a tree. Crack! One of the thin wooden rods snapped in half.

Imani's face felt hot. She carried the kite home and hid it under her bed. "Maybe Theo will forget about it," she thought.

But Theo did not forget. On Monday he asked, "Can I have my kite back? My cousin is visiting, and we want to fly it."

Imani said, "I left it at home." It was true, but it was not the whole truth. All day, her stomach felt tight. She could not enjoy recess or lunch.

That night, Imani told her dad what happened. He listened and then said, "Hiding a problem doesn't make it smaller. It just makes it heavier to carry."

On Tuesday, Imani brought the kite to school. "I broke it, and I hid it," she told Theo. "I'm sorry." Theo was quiet for a moment. Then he said, "Thanks for telling me."

After school, Imani's dad helped them glue a new rod in place. The kite flew again that weekend. Imani felt lighter than the kite.

1. What is the central message of this story?
   - A broken toy can always be glued back together.
   - Friends should never borrow each other's things.
   - Kites should only be flown on calm days.
   - Telling the truth is better than hiding a mistake.

2. Which sentence states the lesson in a character's own words?
   - Thanks for telling me.
   - Maybe Theo will forget about it.
   - Hiding a problem doesn't make it smaller.
   - I left it at home.

3. Why did Imani's stomach feel tight all day on Monday?
   - She ate too much lunch at school.
   - She was nervous about meeting Theo's cousin.
   - She had lost the kite somewhere in the park.
   - She was keeping the broken kite a secret.

4. How does Imani change from Monday to Tuesday?
   - She stops being friends with Theo.
   - She learns how to fly a kite well.
   - She stops hiding and tells the truth.
   - She decides to buy Theo a new kite.

5. Which detail shows that Imani was not fully honest on Monday?
She ran across the park with the kite.
She said she left the kite at home.
She told her dad what happened.
She brought the kite to school.

6. Then a gust pulled it toward a tree. What does gust mean?
a small branch of a tree a sudden rush of wind a long piece of string
a loud crack of thunder

7. What does Dad mean when he says hiding a problem makes it heavier to carry?
Keeping a secret makes you feel worse.
Imani had to carry the kite all the way home.
Broken things weigh more than new things.
The kite got heavier the longer it was hidden.

8. What would most likely have happened if Imani kept hiding the kite?
Theo's cousin would have bought a new kite.
The kite would have been fixed by itself.
She would have kept feeling worried.
Theo would have forgotten about the kite.

9. How did Theo react when Imani told the truth?
He thanked her for telling him.
He said she could keep the kite.
He asked his cousin for help.
He yelled and ran away from her.

10. Which detail from the end shows how telling the truth made Imani feel?
Imani felt lighter than the kite.
Theo was quiet for a moment.
The kite flew again that weekend.
Her dad helped glue a new rod in place.