Literature Central Message

Grade 3 Reading Worksheet - Building Confidence

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer.

READ THIS FIRST

Kesi and the Clay Jug

It had not rained for many weeks. The fields were dry, and the ponds had turned to cracked mud. Kesi the crow flew from place to place, looking for a drink of water.

At last she found a tall clay jug in a farmer's yard. There was a little water at the very bottom. Kesi pushed her beak inside, but she could not reach it. She tried to tip the jug over. It was too heavy.

Kesi felt like giving up. Then she looked at the small pebbles on the ground. She had an idea. She picked up one pebble and dropped it into the jug. Plink! She dropped another, and then another.

Slowly, the water rose higher. Kesi kept working, even when her wings grew tired. After many pebbles, the water reached the top. Kesi took a long, cool drink.

"Thinking and trying again worked better than pushing," she said with a happy caw.

1. What lesson does this fable teach?
   - When a problem is hard, think of a new way and keep trying.
   - Big, strong animals solve problems faster than small ones.
   - Always share your water with friends who are thirsty.

2. Which detail best shows the lesson in action?
   - Kesi dropped pebbles until the water rose.
   - The ponds had turned to cracked mud.
   - Kesi found the jug in a farmer's yard.

3. How does Kesi change from the middle of the story to the end?
   - She goes from being kind to being selfish.
   - She goes from feeling brave to feeling scared.
   - She goes from wanting to quit to working until it works.

4. Why couldn't Kesi drink the water at first?
   - The farmer took the jug away.
   - The water was too muddy to drink.
   - Her beak could not reach it.

5. What would most likely have happened if Kesi had given up?

The farmer would have tipped the jug for her.

She would have stayed thirsty.

The jug would have filled with rain.

6. Which detail is true but too small to be the lesson?

The jug was made of clay.

Hard work and good ideas get you what you need.

A new plan can solve a hard problem.

7. Slowly, the water rose higher. What does rose mean in this sentence?

turned red dried up went up

8. What did Kesi try before she used the pebbles?

She flew off to look for a pond.

She tried to tip the jug over.

She tried to break the jug open.

9. Which sentence shows what Kesi learned?

Farmers should leave water out for birds.

Thinking and trying again worked better than pushing.

Clay jugs are much too heavy for crows.

10. Which advice would Kesi most likely give a friend?

If one way doesn't work, try another way.

Ask a farmer for help when you are thirsty.

Never look for water on a hot day.

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Answer Key - Grade 3 Reading Worksheet - Building Confidence

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