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

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 was nervous about meeting Theo's cousin.
   She was keeping the broken kite a secret.
   She ate too much lunch at school.
   She had lost the kite somewhere in the park.

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

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

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

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

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

9. How did Theo react when Imani told the truth?
   He said she could keep the kite.
   He thanked her for telling him.
   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?
    Her dad helped glue a new rod in place.
    Theo was quiet for a moment.
    The kite flew again that weekend.
    Imani felt lighter than the kite.

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Answer Key - Grade 3 Reading Worksheet

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