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?
   Friends should never borrow each other's things.
   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.

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

3. Why did Imani's stomach feel tight all day on Monday?
   She was keeping the broken kite a secret.
   She ate too much lunch at school.
   She was nervous about meeting Theo's cousin.
   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 brought the kite to school.
   She told her dad what happened.
   She ran across the park with the kite.
   She said she left the kite at home.

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

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.
   Keeping a secret makes you feel worse.
   The kite got heavier the longer it was hidden.
   Broken things weigh more than new things.

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

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

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

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Answer Key - Grade 3 Reading Worksheet

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