Characters, Setting, and Plot

Grade 3 Reading Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer.

READ THIS FIRST

The Beaver Who Worked Alone

Long ago, in a forest beside a wide river, lived a beaver named Brisk. Brisk was the fastest builder in the forest, and he knew it. "I don't need anyone's help," he liked to say.

One autumn, the animals decided to build a dam together before winter. Every animal needed the pond to stay deep through the cold months. The otters offered to carry stones. The muskrats offered to pack mud. Brisk waved them away. "Your help would only slow me down," he said. He began chewing branches by himself.

For days, Brisk worked from sunrise to sunset. His dam grew taller, but it had gaps between the branches. Water trickled through every hole. Brisk was too tired to fill them all.

Then the autumn rains came. The river rose higher each night. One morning, Brisk woke to a loud crack. Part of his dam had broken loose and floated away!

Brisk sat on the bank with his head down. The otters and muskrats swam over quietly. "We can still finish before the snow," said an old otter named Willa.

This time, Brisk nodded. The otters rolled stones into the gaps. The muskrats packed them tight with mud. Brisk set the branches in place. In three days, the dam was finished, and it held strong all winter.

Brisk learned that a job shared is a job done well.

1. Who is the main character in this fable?
   Brisk the beaver the otters Willa the otter the muskrats

2. What is the setting of this fable?
   a city park with a lake
   a pond behind a farm
   a snowy mountain top
   a forest beside a wide river

3. Which word describes Brisk at the beginning?
   proud shy kind lazy

4. Which detail shows that Brisk did not want help?
   He waved the otters and muskrats away.
   He worked from sunrise to sunset.
   He set the branches in place.
   He sat on the bank with his head down.

5. What problem does Brisk face?
   The river dries up in the autumn.
   The otters take all his branches.
   His dam leaks, and part of it breaks.
   He cannot find trees to chew on.

6. What caused part of the dam to break?
   Snow piled up on top of it.
   The otters rolled stones into it.
   Brisk chewed through a branch.
   Autumn rains made the river rise.

7. How does Brisk feel after the dam breaks? Which clue shows it?
   sleepy, because he woke to a loud crack
   sad, because he sat with his head down
   angry, because he waved the others away
   proud, because he was the fastest builder

8. How is the problem solved?
   The animals finish the dam together.
   The animals move to a new river.
   Brisk builds a new dam by himself.
   Willa builds the dam for Brisk.

9. How does Brisk change from the beginning to the end?
   He learns to build faster. He becomes a slow builder. He stops building dams.
   He learns to accept help.

10. Water trickled through every hole. What does trickled mean?
    flowed slowly in a thin line
    froze into hard ice
    rushed in a giant wave
    dried up in the sun

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Answer Key - Grade 3 Reading Worksheet

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