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?
   the muskrats Willa the otter Brisk the beaver the otters

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Answer Key - Grade 3 Reading Worksheet

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