Characters, Setting, and Plot

Grade 3 Reading Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer.

READ THIS FIRST

The Rooftop Garden Hose

Malia lived on the sixth floor of a tall apartment building in the city. On the roof, the neighbors shared a garden. Each family had one wooden box to plant.

Malia's box was next to Mr. Adebayo's. He was older and walked with a cane. Still, he grew the greenest tomato plants on the roof. Malia had planted sunflowers. She checked on them every morning before school.

One hot week in July, Malia noticed a problem. Mr. Adebayo's tomato leaves were drooping and turning brown. The hose was in the far corner and did not reach his box. He had been carrying water in a heavy pot. Now his knee hurt too much to carry anything.

Malia did not want to embarrass him by making a fuss. Instead, she made a plan. She asked the building manager for a longer hose. The manager said there was no money for one. So Malia knocked on doors on every floor. She asked each neighbor for one dollar. By Friday, she had twenty-two dollars.

On Saturday, Malia and her dad bought a long green hose at the hardware store. It reached every box on the roof, even the one in the far corner.

The next morning, Mr. Adebayo found Malia watering his tomatoes. At first he did not say a word. Then he picked the biggest tomato and placed it in her hands. "For the girl who helps without being asked," he said.

1. Where does most of the story take place?
   in Mr. Adebayo's kitchen
   inside a hardware store in the city
   in a garden on an apartment roof
   in a garden behind Malia's school

2. Who is the main character in this story?
   the building manager Malia's dad Malia Mr. Adebayo

3. When does the problem happen?
   on a cold winter morning on a rainy spring Saturday during a hot week in July
   on the first day of school

4. What problem does Malia notice?
   Malia's sunflowers have stopped growing.
   Mr. Adebayo's tomato plants are drying out.
   The building manager has closed the garden.
   The water faucet on the roof is broken.

5. Why can't Mr. Adebayo water his plants?
   The manager told him to stop.
   He is away on a trip in July.
   He cannot find where the hose is.
   His knee hurts too much to carry water.

6. How does Malia get the money for the hose?
   She sells sunflowers to neighbors.
   Her dad gives her twenty dollars.
   She asks each neighbor for a dollar.
   The building manager pays for it.

7. Which detail shows that Malia cares about Mr. Adebayo's feelings?
   She planted sunflowers in her box.
   She bought the hose at a store.
   She lived on the sixth floor.
   She did not want to embarrass him.

8. Which word best describes Malia?
   thoughtful forgetful bossy impatient

9. How does Mr. Adebayo feel at the end? Which clue shows it?
   thankful, because he gives her a tomato
   proud, because his plants are green
   worried, because his leaves turn brown
   angry, because he says nothing at first

10. Malia did not want to make a fuss. What does make a fuss mean?
    make a big deal about something
    make a mess in the garden
    make a new friend on the roof
    make a loud noise with tools

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Answer Key - Grade 3 Reading Worksheet

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