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 otters Brisk the beaver the muskrats Willa the otter

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Answer Key - Grade 3 Reading Worksheet

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