Why Characters Act

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

Read the text. Circle the words that best describe the character.

READ THIS FIRST

Sami Misses the Big Game

Sami had been waiting all week for Saturday's soccer game. His team, the Comets, was playing the Hornets, the only team that had beaten them all season. Sami was the goalkeeper, and he had a plan for stopping their fastest player.

On Friday night, he found his little sister, Noor, at the kitchen table. She was surrounded by cardboard, glue, and a pile of crumpled paper. Her volcano model for the third-grade science fair was due Monday morning. It was leaning sideways like a melting candle.

"It keeps falling over," Noor said. Her voice was tiny. "Mom and Dad have to work all weekend. Everyone else's parents are helping them."

Sami looked at the crooked volcano. He remembered his own third-grade science fair. He had built a bridge out of craft sticks by himself because his parents were busy then, too. The night before the fair, it collapsed. He had stood next to a pile of sticks while other kids showed off their projects. He had never told anyone how embarrassed he felt.

Sami picked up his phone and texted his coach. "Sorry, I can't make the game tomorrow. Family thing." Then he pulled out a chair.

"First," he said, "we need a stronger base." He showed Noor how to build a cone out of rolled newspaper and tape. On Saturday morning, they covered it with strips of paper dipped in paste. While it dried, Sami checked the score of his game on his phone. The Comets had lost by one goal. He winced, but he didn't say anything.

On Sunday, Noor painted the volcano brown and orange. She wrote her own labels for each layer. When Sami offered to write them, she shook her head. "I want to do this part myself," she said. Sami nodded and stepped back.

On Monday afternoon, Noor ran off the bus waving a ribbon. "Third place!" she shouted. "And my volcano didn't fall over once!"

Sami grinned. There would be other soccer games.

1. Which word best describes Sami in this story?
   careless caring impatient selfish

2. Which word best describes Sami when he lets Noor write the labels herself?
   respectful indifferent impatient bossy

3. Which word best describes Sami for giving up his game to help his sister?
   unselfish stubborn thoughtless jealous

4. Which word best describes Noor when she tells Sami in a tiny voice that the volcano keeps falling over?
   cheerful discouraged overconfident impatient

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

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