Why Characters Act

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

Name _____ Date _____

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

READ THIS FIRST

Nikhil Picks a Driver

Nikhil had been on the Bolt Builders robotics team for three years. This year, Coach Lindqvist made him captain. His first big decision was choosing who would drive the robot at the regional contest. The driver used a controller to steer the robot through an obstacle course while the clock ticked down.

Everyone expected Nikhil to pick his best friend, Marcus. Marcus was fast and fearless, and he loved being in charge. He had driven at last year's contest. In the hallway, he had already started telling people, "When I drive at regionals..."

But Nikhil had been watching practice closely. Marcus drove fast, but he often clipped the walls and lost points. He also got frustrated when something went wrong and slammed the controller on the table. Meanwhile, a new fourth grader named Beatriz sat at the back of the room. She rarely spoke. When the others went to lunch, though, she stayed to practice on the spare course. Nikhil had timed her once. She was a little slower than Marcus, but she never touched a wall.

Nikhil also remembered his own first year. He had been the new kid, too. The older students had given him only one job: sorting screws into cups. For months, nobody asked what he thought. He almost quit the team before Coach Lindqvist noticed him.

The night before the decision, Nikhil wrote two lists. One was titled "Marcus." The other was titled "Beatriz." Under Beatriz, he wrote, "Steady. Practices on her own. Nobody gives her a chance." Then he crossed out the last line. It was true, but he knew it could not be the reason. The team needed the driver most likely to score points.

On Monday, Nikhil announced that Beatriz would drive. Marcus would be the strategy coach, calling out which obstacles to try. Marcus's face fell. At lunch he sat at a different table.

Nikhil found him after school. "You see the whole course better than anyone," Nikhil said. "Beatriz steers carefully, but she needs someone to tell her where to go. We need both of you."

At regionals, Marcus stood behind Beatriz, calling out turns. She guided the robot through every gate without a single penalty. The Bolt Builders finished second out of twenty teams.

On the bus home, Marcus slid into the seat next to Nikhil. "Strategy coach is actually pretty fun," he said. Nikhil let out a breath he felt like he had been holding for a week.

1. Which trait does Nikhil show throughout the story?

boastful stubborn forgetful fair-minded

2. Which word best describes Nikhil when he watches practice closely before he chooses?

observant unaware hasty distracted

3. Which word best describes Nikhil when he tells Marcus, "We need both of you"?

considerate demanding spiteful indifferent

4. Which word best describes Beatriz when she stays at lunch to practice on the spare course?

impatient unfocused careless dedicated

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

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