Why Characters Act

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Building Confidence

Name _____ Date _____

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

READ THIS FIRST

Kenji's Secret Song

Every morning that week, Kenji's alarm rang at six o'clock, a whole hour before he needed to get up. He tiptoed to the old piano in the living room. Then he played very softly, with the music book open in front of him.

He was learning a song called "Sakura." It is a song about cherry blossoms. His grandmother, Obaachan, used to sing it when she was a girl in Japan. Kenji had often heard her humming it while she watered the plants on the balcony.

The song was hard. His left hand kept playing the wrong notes. On Wednesday, he almost gave up. Then he looked at the calendar on the fridge. Saturday was circled in red, with the words "Obaachan's 80th birthday."

Kenji practiced the tricky part ten more times. By Friday, his fingers knew the way.

At the party on Saturday, the family sat down to cake and tea. Kenji walked to the piano and began to play. At the first notes, Obaachan put down her teacup. By the second line, she was singing along in a soft, clear voice. Her eyes were shining.

When the song ended, she hugged Kenji tightly. "How did you know?" she asked.

Kenji smiled. "I've been listening," he said.

1. Which word best describes Kenji?
   bossy thoughtful careless

2. Which word best describes Kenji when he almost gives up but keeps practicing?
   unconcerned determined impatient

3. Which word best describes Kenji, who noticed his grandmother humming on the balcony?
   forgetful inattentive observant

4. Which word best describes Kenji getting up an hour early to practice every morning?
   uninterested hardworking easygoing

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Building Confidence

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