Why Characters Act

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Building Confidence

Name _____ Date _____

Read the text. Circle the detail from the text that shows what each question says about 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 detail shows Kenji had been paying attention to his grandmother?
   His alarm rang at six o'clock.
   He had heard her humming it on the balcony.
   His left hand kept playing the wrong notes.

2. Which detail shows that Kenji did not quit when the song was hard?
   His left hand kept playing the wrong notes.
   He practiced the tricky part ten more times.
   Saturday was circled in red on the calendar.

3. Which detail shows that Kenji practiced without anyone noticing?
   He walked to the piano at the party on Saturday.
   He tiptoed to the old piano and played very softly.
   On Wednesday, he looked at the calendar on the fridge.

4. Which detail shows why Saturday mattered to Kenji?
   The family sat down to cake and tea at the party.
   His alarm rang at six o'clock, a whole hour early.
   Saturday was circled in red for "Obaachan's 80th birthday."

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Building Confidence

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