Why Characters Act

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

Read the text. Circle the detail from the text that shows what each question says about the character.

READ THIS FIRST

The Mystery Painter: A Play

CHARACTERS: NIA, a fourth grader. TOMÁS, her classmate. MS. REYES, their teacher.

SETTING: The school stage, after school. A large cardboard castle leans against the wall. It is only half painted.

NIA: (walking in) I left my water bottle here at rehearsal. (She stops.) Tomás? What are you doing up there?

TOMÁS: (startled, on a ladder with a paintbrush) Nothing! I mean, I'm just painting.

NIA: You painted the castle? Everyone has been wondering who did that. It looks amazing.

TOMÁS: (climbing down) Please don't tell anyone, okay?

NIA: Why not? Ms. Reyes asked you to be in the play three times. You said no every time. I thought you didn't care about it.

TOMÁS: (looking at the floor) I care. I just can't stand up there and talk. Last year I had one line in the spring show. My mind went blank, and everyone stared at me. Somebody laughed.

NIA: Oh. I remember that. (pause) But you still wanted to help with the play?

TOMÁS: My grandpa painted signs for stores in Mexico. He taught me how to make stone look real, with gray and a little purple. When I heard we needed a castle, I thought, I can do that part. Nobody has to look at me.

NIA: Tomás, people will be looking at your castle the whole time.

TOMÁS: (smiling a little) That's different. The castle doesn't have to talk.

(MS. REYES enters, carrying a box of costumes.)

MS. REYES: Tomás! So you're our mystery painter. This is wonderful work.

TOMÁS: (quietly) Thank you.

MS. REYES: We still need a forest and a night sky for Act Two. Would you be in charge of all the scenery? You could work behind the curtain during the show.

TOMÁS: (looking up for the first time) Behind the curtain? Then yes. I'd like that.

NIA: When the play ends, the whole crew comes out to bow. You'll have to come out, too.

TOMÁS: (laughing) Maybe. If I can stand next to the castle.

1. Which detail shows that Tomás did not want to be noticed?
   "We still need a forest and a night sky for Act Two."
   "Please don't tell anyone, okay?"
   "When the play ends, the whole crew comes out to bow."
   "I left my water bottle here at rehearsal."

2. Which detail shows why Tomás felt he could help with the castle?
   His grandpa taught him how to make stone look real.
   Ms. Reyes asked him to be in the play three times.
   Nia came back to the stage after school to get her water bottle.
   The castle was only half painted.

3. Which detail shows that Ms. Reyes trusts Tomás with a big job?
   She calls him the mystery painter.
   She asks him to be in charge of the scenery.
   She says the castle he painted is wonderful work.
   She enters carrying a box of costumes.

4. Which sentence shows why Tomás is afraid to speak on stage?
   Ms. Reyes asked you to be in the play three times.
   Everyone has been wondering who did that.
   My mind went blank, and everyone stared at me.
   My grandpa painted signs for stores in Mexico.

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

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