Use Evidence in Stories

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

Read the story. Circle the detail that shows each idea.

READ THIS FIRST

The Rain Barrel

In Omar's town, it had not rained since April. The grass in the park had turned the color of straw. The creek behind the school was only a line of dry, cracked mud. Every evening, the news showed the same map, with the whole state colored orange.

Omar's grandfather had lived through dry summers before. On the side of his house stood a big blue barrel connected to the roof gutter. "When rain comes, I catch it," Grandpa Idris said. "Every drop."

Omar thought the barrel was silly. "It hasn't rained in months," he said. "It's just an empty barrel."

Grandpa only smiled and tapped the lid. "Patience," he said.

Then, one night in August, Omar woke to a strange sound. Tap, tap, tap. He pulled back the curtain. The street lamp glowed through a curtain of rain. Water ran down the window in silver lines. Omar pressed his forehead to the cool glass and listened for a long time.

In the morning, he ran next door. Grandpa was already outside in his slippers. The barrel was full to the top. Water spilled over the edge and darkened the dusty ground. The air smelled fresh, and puddles shone in the street. Even the cracked mud in the creek looked darker.

"Now what?" Omar asked.

"Now we share," Grandpa said.

All week, neighbors came with buckets and watering cans. Mrs. Kim watered her pepper plants. The Delgado twins filled a bowl for their dog. A man Omar had never met carried water to the young trees along the sidewalk. Grandpa didn't ask anyone for anything in return.

On Saturday, Omar went to the hardware store with his allowance money in his pocket. He came home with a second barrel. He set it beside the first one and connected it to the gutter himself. Grandpa watched from the porch and didn't say a word, but he was smiling.

1. Which detail shows that Omar did not understand the barrel at first?

   He called it just an empty barrel.

   He pressed his forehead to the glass.

   He woke to a strange sound.

   He ran next door in the morning.

2. Which detail best shows that Grandpa approved of Omar's choice?

- He watched from the porch, smiling.
- He didn't say a word.
- He was outside early in his slippers.
- He tapped the lid and said 'Patience.'

3. Which detail best supports the idea that the town needed rain?

- Omar thought the barrel was silly and empty.
- The big blue barrel was connected to the gutter.
- Grandpa had lived through many dry summers.
- The park grass had turned the color of straw.

4. Which detail best supports the idea that Grandpa is generous?

- He had lived through dry summers before this one.
- He was outside early in the morning in his slippers.
- He let the neighbors fill buckets for free.
- He tapped the lid of the barrel and said 'Patience.'

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

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