Use Evidence in Stories

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

Name _____ Date _____

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

READ THIS FIRST

The Music Box That Would Not Play

A Play in One Scene

CHARACTERS: MRS. ADEYEMI, owner of a repair shop. LUCA, her helper, age 11. MR. BRANDT, a customer.

SETTING: A small repair shop on a rainy morning. Shelves hold dozens of clocks, radios, and music boxes, each with a paper tag. A wooden music box sits open on the counter, silent.

(LUCA is polishing the music box. He glances at the door, then at the clock on the wall.)

LUCA: (to himself) Mr. Brandt is coming at ten. It's nine-thirty. Come on, play!

(He turns the small key. Nothing happens.)

(MRS. ADEYEMI enters from the back room, wiping her hands on her apron.)

MRS. ADEYEMI: Is Mr. Brandt's music box ready, Luca?

LUCA: (quickly) Almost. I mean... yes. It just needs a minute to warm up.

MRS. ADEYEMI: (raising an eyebrow) Music boxes do not warm up like ovens.

(The door opens. A bell jingles. MR. BRANDT enters, shaking rain from his umbrella.)

MR. BRANDT: Good morning! I hardly slept last night. That music box belonged to my grandmother. She played it for me every night when I was small. Is it playing again?

(LUCA looks down at his shoes. He twists the polishing cloth in his hands.)

LUCA: (quietly) No, sir. It isn't. I tried to fix it myself, and I couldn't. I'm sorry. I should have told Mrs. Adeyemi yesterday.

(Pause. MRS. ADEYEMI puts a hand on LUCA's shoulder.)

MRS. ADEYEMI: Thank you for telling the truth, Luca. Now we can fix it properly. Mr. Brandt, could you come back at four?

MR. BRANDT: (smiling) I have waited a long time to hear it again. I can wait until four.

(MR. BRANDT exits. MRS. ADEYEMI lifts the music box and opens the bottom panel.)

MRS. ADEYEMI: Look here. Do you see this tiny spring? It slipped off its hook. You were looking at the wrong part, that's all.

LUCA: (leaning in) Can you show me how to put it back?

MRS. ADEYEMI: Better. I will watch while you do it.

(LUCA presses the spring onto its hook with a pair of tweezers. He turns the key. A few bright notes ring out, and then the whole tune begins.)

LUCA: (grinning) It works! I fixed it!

MRS. ADEYEMI: You did. And this morning, you did something harder.

LUCA: What was that?

MRS. ADEYEMI: You told the truth when a story would have been easier.

(At four o'clock, a slow, sweet tune fills the shop. MR. BRANDT stands in the doorway with his eyes closed.)

1. Which detail suggests Mrs. Adeyemi does not believe Luca?
   She enters from the back room.
   She wipes her hands on her apron.
   She asks if the music box is ready.
   She raises an eyebrow at his answer.

2. Which stage direction best shows that Luca feels ashamed before he tells the truth?
   He glances at the door and the clock.
   He turns the small key.
   He leans in to see the spring.
   He looks down at his shoes.

3. Which stage direction best shows that Mrs. Adeyemi is kind to Luca after he tells the truth?
   She puts a hand on Luca's shoulder.
   She lifts the music box and opens the bottom panel.
   She enters from the back room.
   She wipes her hands on her apron.

4. Which line best shows that Mr. Brandt is patient?
   That music box belonged to my grandmother.
   Good morning! I hardly slept last night.
   I can wait until four.
   Is it playing again?

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

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