Use Evidence in Stories

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

Read the story. Circle what the reader can infer.

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. What can a reader infer about the setting at the start of the story?

   The town was next to a full lake.

   The town was in a long dry spell.

   The town had just had a big flood.

   It was the middle of a snowy winter.

2. What can you infer about Grandpa Idris from the beginning of the story?

- He worries about everything.
- He wants to sell water to his neighbors.
- He does not believe it will rain again.
- He plans ahead for hard times.

3. Omar listened to the rain for a long time. What does this suggest?

- He was annoyed that it woke him.
- He was waiting for Grandpa to call.
- He was scared of the storm.
- He was amazed and glad it was raining.

4. What can you infer about Omar at the end of the story?

- He still thinks the barrel is silly now.
- He has learned something from Grandpa.
- He is ready to move away from the town.
- He is upset the neighbors used the water.

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

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