Use Evidence in Stories

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

Name _____ Date _____

Read the story. Circle what the reader can infer.

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. What can a reader infer from Luca saying the music box 'just needs a minute to warm up'?
   - He knows a lot about how music boxes work.
   - He wants Mrs. Adeyemi to fix it for him.
   - He is trying to hide that it is not fixed.
   - He thinks the shop is too cold.

2. Mr. Brandt stands with his eyes closed at the end. What can a reader infer?
   - He is upset that the tune is too slow.
   - He is listening closely and remembering.
   - He is tired from waiting all day.
   - He does not want to see the box.

3. What can a reader infer from Luca saying, 'I should have told Mrs. Adeyemi yesterday'?
   - He thinks Mrs. Adeyemi caused the problem herself.
   - He does not want to fix the box any more.
   - He knows he waited too long to ask for help.
   - He wants Mr. Brandt to blame someone else instead.

4. What can a reader infer from Mr. Brandt agreeing to wait until four?
   - He has another repair to pick up later today.
   - He does not care much if it gets fixed at all.
   - He is angry but will not say so out loud.
   - The music box matters more to him than speed.

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

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