Use Evidence in Stories

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

Read the story. Circle the best reason for each why question.

READ THIS FIRST

The Final Round

The gym at Lincoln Elementary had never been so quiet. Forty desks sat in neat rows. The only sounds were the squeak of markers and the tick of the round timer. Parents waited in the hallway, peeking through the small window in the door.

This was the final round of the county math bee. Only two students were left: Isabela and a boy named Theo, who wore a T-shirt that said Math Team Captain. If Isabela won, her school would take home the trophy for the first time.

Isabela's hands were cold. She rubbed them together under the desk and took a slow breath. Her coach had told her, "Don't rush. Check your work before you lift your board."

The judge read the last problem. Isabela worked fast. She wrote her answer on her small whiteboard and held it up at the same moment as Theo. The judge glanced at both boards. "Both correct," he announced. "We will need another round."

Isabela lowered her board and looked at it. Her stomach dropped. She had written 84. The answer was 48. She had flipped the digits in her rush. The judge had read Theo's board first, and he had not looked closely at hers.

If she spoke up, Theo would win. For one second, she thought about the trophy.

Then she raised her hand. "Excuse me," she said. "I wrote 84. Mine is wrong."

The room went silent. The judge looked again and nodded. "Thank you," he said. "Theo is our champion."

Theo walked over and shook her hand. "That was really fair," he said quietly. His ears turned red.

Isabela's school finished in second place. On the bus ride home, her coach sat down beside her. He didn't talk about the trophy. Instead, he handed her a small paper card. On it, he had written one word in green marker: Champion.

Isabela turned the card over in her hands all the way home.

1. Why did Theo's ears turn red?

   He was upset that he had lost.

   He was angry that Isabela spoke up.

   He was cold from sitting in the gym.

   He was moved and a little embarrassed.

2. Why did Isabela write 84 instead of 48?

   Theo held up his answer to her first.

   She did not understand the problem.

   She rushed and flipped the two digits.

   The judge read the numbers too quickly.

3. Why did the judge say, 'Both correct'?

   Theo and Isabela had worked on it together.

   Both students had written the same answer.

   He did not look closely at her board.

   He wanted to end the bee quickly.

4. Why was this round so important to Isabela?

   She had never beaten Theo in a math bee.

   It was the first math bee she had ever entered.

   Her school had never won the trophy before.

   Her coach said she would be captain if she won.

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

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