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 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. Why did Omar buy a second barrel?

   The first barrel cracked in the storm.

   He now saw why saving rain was useful.

   He wanted water for his own garden.

   His grandfather told him to buy one.

2. Why did Grandpa say, 'Patience'?

He was tired of waiting for Omar.

He wanted Omar to stop talking.

He knew the rain would come in time.

He wanted Omar to fill the barrel by hand.

3. Why did neighbors come with buckets and watering cans?

They needed water after the dry weather.

They were going to wash the whole street.

They wanted to help Omar build a second barrel.

They wanted to buy Grandpa's old house.

4. Why did the dusty ground look darker near the barrel?

Omar had painted the barrel.

Grandpa had swept the ground.

Water had spilled over the edge.

Dust had blown in from the creek.

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

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