Use Evidence in Stories

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

Name _____ Date _____

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

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. Why does Mrs. Adeyemi say, 'Music boxes do not warm up like ovens'?
   She thinks the music box is too hot.
   She doubts that Luca's excuse is true.
   She wants to teach Luca how ovens work.
   She is joking about the cold shop.

2. Why does Mrs. Adeyemi ask Mr. Brandt to come back at four?
   She wants Mr. Brandt to buy a new one.
   She and Luca need time to fix the music box.
   She wants to punish Luca by making Mr. Brandt wait.
   She is closing the shop for the day.

3. Why did the music box not play?
   The key to the music box was lost somewhere.
   It needed more time to warm up, like an oven.
   The music box was too old to ever play again.
   A tiny spring had slipped off its little hook.

4. Why does Luca decide to tell the truth after first saying the box was ready?
   The music box suddenly starts to play on its own.
   Mr. Brandt's story shows how much it matters.
   Mrs. Adeyemi tells him to confess right now.
   Mr. Brandt finds the slipped spring himself.

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

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