# Find the Theme

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

Read the story. Circle the best reason.

READ THIS FIRST

## Diego's Big Solo

Diego played the drums in the Lincoln Elementary band. For the spring concert, Ms. Okafor gave him eight measures to play alone in the middle of the last song. Diego could hardly sleep that night. He imagined the whole gym cheering just for him.

Every day after school, Diego practiced his solo in the garage. He made it louder and faster each time. He added extra crashes on the cymbal. His older sister covered her ears and laughed. "The neighbors can hear you on the next street," she said.

At band practice, though, something went wrong. Diego was so focused on his solo that he stopped paying attention to the rest of the song. He came in too early after the flutes. He drummed so loudly that nobody could hear the trumpets. Twice, Ms. Okafor tapped her music stand to stop the band.

After practice, Ms. Okafor asked Diego to stay. "Your solo is exciting," she said. "But a drummer's main job is to keep everyone together. If the band falls apart, your solo has nothing to stand on."

Diego felt his face grow hot. He wanted to argue, but he remembered the flutes trying to find their place. He remembered the trumpet players frowning at him.

That week, Diego practiced differently. He played along with a recording of the song and counted every measure. He listened for the flutes and the trumpets. He even took out two of the extra cymbal crashes so the solo would fit the music.

On the night of the concert, the band sounded smooth and steady. When Diego's eight measures came, he played them clearly and confidently. Then he slid right back into the beat. The trumpets came in exactly on time.

Afterward, a trumpet player named Sung-min gave Diego a high five. "That was the first time we all finished together," he said. Diego grinned. He realized the cheering had been for the whole band, and that felt even better.

1. Why did Diego play along with a recording of the song?

   to make his solo louder and faster

   to record a song for his sister

   to show the neighbors his new solo

   to practice counting and listening with the band

2. Why did Ms. Okafor stop the band at practice?

The flutes were playing a different song.

The trumpet players wanted a break from playing.

The practice time was over for the afternoon.

Diego was playing too early and too loudly.

3. Why did Diego not argue with Ms. Okafor after practice?

He agreed that his sister was right about the neighbors.

He remembered how the other players had struggled.

He was afraid Ms. Okafor would take away his drums.

He was too tired from practicing to start an argument.

4. Why did Sung-min give Diego a high five?

The band had finished together for the first time.

Diego had played the loudest solo of the whole concert.

Diego had just won a prize for his solo.

Sung-min wanted to thank him for lending the drums.

**Scan to get this marked free. No screen time for your child.**
Print it · do it in pencil · scan it · PencilGo picks the next sheet.

# Find the Theme

Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

Read the story. Circle the best reason.

READ THIS FIRST

## Diego's Big Solo

Diego played the drums in the Lincoln Elementary band. For the spring concert, Ms. Okafor gave him eight measures to play alone in the middle of the last song. Diego could hardly sleep that night. He imagined the whole gym cheering just for him.

Every day after school, Diego practiced his solo in the garage. He made it louder and faster each time. He added extra crashes on the cymbal. His older sister covered her ears and laughed. "The neighbors can hear you on the next street," she said.

At band practice, though, something went wrong. Diego was so focused on his solo that he stopped paying attention to the rest of the song. He came in too early after the flutes. He drummed so loudly that nobody could hear the trumpets. Twice, Ms. Okafor tapped her music stand to stop the band.

After practice, Ms. Okafor asked Diego to stay. "Your solo is exciting," she said. "But a drummer's main job is to keep everyone together. If the band falls apart, your solo has nothing to stand on."

Diego felt his face grow hot. He wanted to argue, but he remembered the flutes trying to find their place. He remembered the trumpet players frowning at him.

That week, Diego practiced differently. He played along with a recording of the song and counted every measure. He listened for the flutes and the trumpets. He even took out two of the extra cymbal crashes so the solo would fit the music.

On the night of the concert, the band sounded smooth and steady. When Diego's eight measures came, he played them clearly and confidently. Then he slid right back into the beat. The trumpets came in exactly on time.

Afterward, a trumpet player named Sung-min gave Diego a high five. "That was the first time we all finished together," he said. Diego grinned. He realized the cheering had been for the whole band, and that felt even better.

1. Why did Diego play along with a recording of the song?

   to make his solo louder and faster

   to record a song for his sister

   to show the neighbors his new solo

   to practice counting and listening with the band

2. Why did Ms. Okafor stop the band at practice?

The flutes were playing a different song.

The trumpet players wanted a break from playing.

The practice time was over for the afternoon.

Diego was playing too early and too loudly.

3. Why did Diego not argue with Ms. Okafor after practice?

He agreed that his sister was right about the neighbors.

He remembered how the other players had struggled.

He was afraid Ms. Okafor would take away his drums.

He was too tired from practicing to start an argument.

4. Why did Sung-min give Diego a high five?

The band had finished together for the first time.

Diego had played the loudest solo of the whole concert.

Diego had just won a prize for his solo.

Sung-min wanted to thank him for lending the drums.