Find the Theme

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Building Confidence

Name _____ Date _____

Read the story. Circle the best reason.

READ THIS FIRST

The Heron Who Would Not Ask

In a marsh full of tall reeds lived a young heron named Long-Legs. Spring had come, and it was time to build her first nest. The older herons offered to show her how. "No, thank you," she said. "I can do it myself."

Long-Legs gathered sticks and piled them on a low branch. She did not weave them together. She simply stacked them. The first breeze sent half the sticks splashing into the water.

She tried again on a higher branch. This time she used only thin twigs because they were easy to carry. The nest looked fine until a duck landed beside it. The branch shook, and the twigs scattered.

On the third morning, Long-Legs watched an old heron named Gray Wing. Gray Wing chose thick sticks for the bottom and thin ones for the top. She tucked each stick under the others, like the strands of a basket.

Long-Legs flew over, feeling a little shy. "Will you show me how you do that?" she asked.

Gray Wing smiled. "I was hoping you would ask."

Gray Wing worked beside her all afternoon. By sunset, Long-Legs had a strong, round nest. That night the wind blew hard across the marsh, but her nest did not move.

1. Why did the first nest fall apart?
   - A duck landed on the branch beside it.
   - She used only thick, heavy sticks.
   - She stacked the sticks without weaving them.

2. Why did the second nest scatter when a duck landed beside it?
   - It was built on a branch that was too low.
   - It was built only from thin twigs.
   - The duck pushed it off the branch on purpose.

3. Why did Long-Legs fly over to Gray Wing?
   - She wanted to share her thin twigs with Gray Wing.
   - She wanted to borrow some sticks from Gray Wing.
   - She wanted to learn how to build a strong nest.

4. Why did Long-Legs' nest stay still in the strong wind?
   - She built it on a very high branch this time.
   - She had learned to weave the sticks together.
   - The older herons held it in place all night.

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Building Confidence

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