Find the Theme

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Building Confidence

Name _____ Date _____

Read the story. Circle what the words or the detail show.

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. Gray Wing says, "I was hoping you would ask." What does this show?
   - She thought the nest was already fine.
   - She was ready to help all along.
   - She did not want to share her secret.

2. Long-Legs says, "I can do it myself." What does this show?
   - She is too tired to finish building the nest.
   - She is happy to learn from the older herons.
   - She is too proud to ask for help.

3. Long-Legs flew over, feeling a little shy. What does this show?
   - She is angry that Gray Wing built a nest first.
   - It is hard for her to ask for help.
   - She thinks her nest is already perfect.

4. That night the wind blew hard, but her nest did not move. What does this show?
   - Strong winds never knock down a nest.
   - Long-Legs should have stayed on the low branch.
   - Asking for help led to a nest that works.

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Building Confidence

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