Compare Stories in the Same Genre

Grade 5 Reading Worksheet - Building Confidence

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer.

READ THIS FIRST

Two Mysteries Solved with Clues

Story 1: The Empty Bird Feeder

Every morning, Lucía filled the bird feeder outside her kitchen window. By lunchtime, it was always empty. "Someone is taking the seeds," she told her dad.

Lucía suspected Theo, the boy next door. She had seen him near the fence with a paper bag. But Dad said, "Find proof before you blame anyone."

So Lucía became a detective. She sprinkled flour on the ground under the feeder. The next day, she found tiny prints with four toes. She also saw seed shells scattered along the top of the fence.

Then she spotted the thief. A gray squirrel leaped from the fence onto the feeder and stuffed its cheeks with seeds. Lucía laughed. Later she learned that Theo's bag held only his lunch.

Story 2: The Muddy Footprints

One rainy afternoon, Marcus found muddy footprints across the clean hallway floor. His mom frowned. "Who did this?" she asked.

Marcus's little sister pointed at their dog, Pepper. Pepper did have muddy paws. But Marcus looked closely at the prints. They were not paw prints at all. They had zigzag lines, like the bottom of a boot.

Marcus checked the shoes by the door. His own rain boots had the same zigzag pattern. They were still dripping. He had forgotten to take them off after soccer practice.

Marcus took a deep breath. "Mom, it was me," he said. He grabbed a mop and cleaned the whole hallway. Mom smiled. She said that telling the truth was the best clue of all.

1. Both stories are mysteries. What does each main character do to solve the mystery?

   asks a grown-up for the answer

   looks closely at clues

   waits for someone to confess

2. Who does Lucía suspect at first?

   Theo, the boy next door a gray squirrel her dad

3. What clue tells Marcus that Pepper did not make the prints?

Pepper's paws were clean and dry.

The prints led to his sister's room.

The prints had zigzag lines like a boot.

4. How is the solution different in the two stories?

Lucía finds Theo did it, but Marcus finds Pepper did it.

Both characters find that a dog made the mess.

Lucía finds an animal did it, but Marcus finds he did it himself.

5. Which lesson do both stories share?

Pets are usually the cause of trouble in a house.

Rainy days make the best mysteries.

Check the evidence before deciding who is to blame.

6. Which theme belongs to Story 2 more than to Story 1?

Be honest when the evidence points to you.

Feeding birds takes patience.

Animals can be clever thieves.

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Answer Key - Grade 5 Reading Worksheet - Building Confidence

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