The Muddy Path

Read how a character's choice changes a story.

3.LF.22 "Describe literary elements within a story, including setting, plot, characters, and themes. a. Describe in detail the characters' behavior, emotions, and traits and explain how their actions influence events in the story. b..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one action that changes what happens in the story, and circle the words a character says that help show the story's lesson.

Books for the Story Corner

1. On Saturday morning, Lina and Ben carried a box of books to the town park. They had promised to start a story corner under the big oak tree. A night of rain had left the path soft and muddy. When Lina's boot sank, the box tipped, and books slid onto the wet grass. Ben reached for the box, but Lina said, "I can fix it myself."

2. Lina stacked the books in her arms and hurried toward the tree. Three books slipped out and landed in a puddle. Her cheeks grew hot. Ben picked them up and said, "If we each carry a few, we can keep them dry." Lina looked at the long muddy path. She gave Ben half the books, then asked him to walk beside her.

3. Together, they took small steps around the puddles. At the oak tree, they laid the damp books in the sun and spread a blanket for the story corner. Children soon gathered to listen. Lina handed Ben the first book to read. "We made it here together," she said. Ben smiled, and Lina knew that asking for help had saved their morning.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the park path after the rain cause a problem for Lina and Ben?

2. How do Lina's feelings about help change? What does she do to show the change?

3. How do Ben's words change what happens next?

4. What lesson does the story teach? Give one detail that supports your answer.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine Lina refuses Ben's offer to help a second time. Write 3 or 4 sentences telling what happens next and how her choice changes the story's lesson.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 3 · 3.LF.22

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one action that changes what happens in the story, and circle the words a character says that help show the story's lesson. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the park path after the rain cause a problem for Lina and Ben?	**The muddy path makes Lina's boot sink and the box tip, so books fall onto the wet grass.**
2	How do Lina's feelings about help change? What does she do to show the change?	**At first, Lina insists on fixing the problem alone. After more books fall, she gives Ben half the books and asks him to walk beside her.**
3	How do Ben's words change what happens next?	**Ben suggests that they each carry a few books to keep them dry. Lina accepts his idea, and they reach the tree together.**
4	What lesson does the story teach? Give one detail that supports your answer.	**Asking for help can make a hard job easier. When Lina shares the books with Ben, they get to the tree and start the story corner.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Lina kept all the books in her arms. More books fell into the mud, so the story corner started late. Ben waited by the tree, but Lina still refused his help. Lina learned that refusing help can make a hard job even harder.

Accept other supported lessons, such as working together helps people solve problems. For Part 3, look for an event caused by Lina's new choice and a lesson that fits that event.