A Stronger Bridge

Use story details to explain character choices.

4.LF.14 "Demonstrate comprehension of literary and informational text by utilizing its content when discussing or writing in response to the text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail that shows the bridge's problem, circle one detail that shows how Mara and Leo respond, and number two details that show what the characters learn.

The Paper Bridge

1. At the school science fair, Mara and Leo had to build a bridge from one sheet of paper. Their bridge needed to cross a gap between two desks and hold a small bag of coins. Mara folded the paper into a flat strip. "Simple is strong," she said. Leo wondered if ridges might help, but Mara wanted to test her idea first.

2. Proudly, Mara set the strip across the gap. When Leo placed the bag in the middle, the paper bent, and the coins slid onto a desk. Mara frowned. Leo folded the same sheet back and forth like a fan, making tall ridges. He rested its ends on the desks. Mara held the bag while Leo made sure the bridge was straight.

3. This time the bridge held the bag. Mara touched a ridge and noticed that the paper no longer bent easily. "You were right to try a different shape," she told Leo. Then a classmate asked if their bridge could hold two bags. Mara reached for another bag, but Leo stopped her. "Let's check that both ends rest on the desks before we test again," he said. Together they checked.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does Mara respond to Leo's first idea? Use a story detail to explain your answer.

2. How does the first test lead Leo to change the bridge? Use details from both the test and his next step.

3. What shows that Mara has changed her mind about Leo's idea? Give two details from the last paragraph.

4. Why does Leo stop Mara before they try two bags? Use a detail from the ending to support your answer.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a new scene in which Mara and Leo test a different object on their bridge. Show how both characters use something they learned, and include two accurate details from the story.

ANSWER KEY

A Stronger Bridge

GRADE 4 · 4.LF.14

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one detail that shows the bridge's problem, circle one detail that shows how Mara and Leo respond, and number two details that show what the characters learn. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does Mara respond to Leo's first idea? Use a story detail to explain your answer.	**Mara tests her flat strip instead of trying ridges first. She says, "Simple is strong."**
2	How does the first test lead Leo to change the bridge? Use details from both the test and his next step.	**The flat strip bends and the coins slide off. Leo then folds the paper into tall ridges.**
3	What shows that Mara has changed her mind about Leo's idea? Give two details from the last paragraph.	**Mara notices that the ridged paper does not bend easily, and she tells Leo he was right to try a different shape.**
4	Why does Leo stop Mara before they try two bags? Use a detail from the ending to support your answer.	**He wants to make sure the bridge is ready for another test. He asks Mara to check that both ends rest on the desks.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The next day, Mara and Leo placed their ridged paper bridge between the two desks again. Mara asked Leo to check that both ends rested firmly on the desks before she set a small eraser in the middle. The bridge held, and Mara smiled at the ridges they had made together. "Next time, let's test both of our ideas," she said.

Accept other accurate details that support each explanation. In the new scene, look for a different test object, actions by both characters, and two details consistent with the story.