The Bridge Builders

Find the lessons a folktale states and shows.

4.LF.19.a "Determine and state an implied theme, explicit theme, or life lesson from a myth, story, or other traditional literature."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the elder's stated lesson. Circle two of Ivo's actions that help you figure out another lesson the tale teaches.

The Bridge After the Storm

1. Long ago, a mountain village had one wooden bridge over a rushing stream. After a storm snapped its ropes, Ivo, the youngest carpenter, promised to fix it before sunset. He wanted the village to cheer for him alone. When his neighbor Mara offered to help, Ivo waved her away. He dragged a heavy beam toward the stream, but it slipped from his hands and sank into the mud.

2. Ivo tried to pull the beam free. His boots sank deeper, and the sun dipped behind the hills. Mara returned with two farmers and a coil of rope. This time, Ivo asked them to stay. Together they pulled out the beam, tied fresh ropes, and laid the boards in place. Mara checked each knot while the farmers held the bridge steady.

3. At dusk, the first villagers crossed the bridge. Ivo started to say that he had repaired it, but he saw Mara's muddy sleeves and the farmers' sore hands. "We repaired it," he told the crowd. The village elder nodded and said, "Many hands can carry what one pair cannot." Ivo smiled when the others received cheers beside him. The bridge stood firm through the next storm.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What lesson does the elder say aloud? Explain what it means for the bridge repair.

2. What lesson does Ivo's first refusal teach about pride? Use a detail from the tale.

3. What lesson does Ivo's choice after the beam sinks teach about making mistakes? Use an event from the tale.

4. What life lesson do Ivo's words, "We repaired it," show? Use a detail from the ending.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences about a traveler who finds a lost pouch. Show what the traveler chooses to do and what happens next. In your third sentence, state a life lesson that is different from the lessons in Ivo's tale.

ANSWER KEY

The Bridge Builders

GRADE 4 · 4.LF.19.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the elder's stated lesson. Circle two of Ivo's actions that help you figure out another lesson the tale teaches. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What lesson does the elder say aloud? Explain what it means for the bridge repair.	**People can accomplish a hard task by working together. Ivo, Mara, and the farmers repair the bridge together.**
2	What lesson does Ivo's first refusal teach about pride? Use a detail from the tale.	**Pride can make a task harder. Ivo turns down Mara's help, then cannot move the beam by himself.**
3	What lesson does Ivo's choice after the beam sinks teach about making mistakes? Use an event from the tale.	**When one way fails, trying a new way can help. Ivo asks the others to stay, and they repair the bridge together.**
4	What life lesson do Ivo's words, "We repaired it," show? Use a detail from the ending.	**Give others credit for their work. Ivo names the repair as a group effort, and the others receive cheers beside him.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A traveler found a lost pouch of coins beside a forest path. She returned it to its owner, who later trusted her to carry a message. Honesty can earn another person's trust.

Accept different wording when the lesson fits the cited events. For Your Turn, look for three sentences with a choice, a result, and a distinct life lesson.