The Book Swap Rescue

How different characters move a story forward

5.LF.20 "Explain how the author's use of character types throughout a narrative helps drive its plot."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle words or actions that show what kind of person Leo, Nia, and Mr. Ortiz are. Number three moments when their choices change what happens to the books.

Rain at the Book Swap

1. The fifth-grade book swap was set up in the school courtyard. Just as families arrived, dark clouds rolled in. Leo, who loved taking quick action, grabbed the handle of the loaded book cart. "I can get these inside before the rain!" he said. He pushed straight across the grass. One wheel sank into soft mud, and the cart tipped. Books slid toward a puddle.

2. Nia was the kind of person who checked a path before taking it. She had noticed a narrow paved walkway along the wall, but Leo had rushed past her. Now she caught the cart before more books fell. "We cannot pull it toward the puddle," she said. She asked everyone to lift the books onto the low bench, then pointed out the dry walkway to the door.

3. Mr. Ortiz, the school custodian, liked finding a use for whatever was nearby. He brought two empty plastic bins from the supply closet and set them on the bench. Families filled the bins, and Leo carried one along the walkway while Nia guided the group around the mud. Mr. Ortiz rolled the empty cart back onto the pavement. Inside, the books stayed dry, and the swap began before the first heavy drops fell.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What kind of person is Leo? Explain how his choice creates a problem for the book swap.

2. How does Nia's careful way of thinking change what the group does next?

3. What kind of person is Mr. Ortiz? Explain how his idea helps solve the problem.

4. How do Leo and Nia use their different ways of acting to help the book swap begin?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a new character joins the book swap before Leo pushes the cart. In three or four sentences, show what kind of person this character is, what they do, and how their action changes what happens next. Do not repeat an action taken by Leo, Nia, or Mr. Ortiz.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 5 · 5.LF.20

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle words or actions that show what kind of person Leo, Nia, and Mr. Ortiz are. Number three moments when their choices change what happens to the books. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What kind of person is Leo? Explain how his choice creates a problem for the book swap.	**Leo acts quickly without checking the route. He pushes the cart across the grass, where a wheel sinks into mud and the books slide toward a puddle.**
2	How does Nia's careful way of thinking change what the group does next?	**Nia keeps more books from falling, directs people to put them on the bench, and points out a dry walkway to the door.**
3	What kind of person is Mr. Ortiz? Explain how his idea helps solve the problem.	**Mr. Ortiz is resourceful. He brings plastic bins so the families can carry the books inside instead of using the stuck cart.**
4	How do Leo and Nia use their different ways of acting to help the book swap begin?	**Nia finds a safe route around the mud and guides the group. Leo carries a bin of books along that route, helping get the books inside before the heavy rain.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Tariq is a cheerful organizer who can get a crowd working together. Before Leo pushes the cart, Tariq asks families to form a line from the tables to the door and pass the books along. Leo leaves the cart behind, so it never gets stuck, and the swap moves indoors before the storm.

For the questions, accept other descriptions of each character if the explanation connects a passage action to its effect on the plot. For Your Turn, look for a new character type whose distinct action causes a clear change in events.