Keep Trying

Use story details to find a theme and build a summary.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.2 "Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text; summarize the text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that show Nia does not give up, and circle one detail that shows she accepts help. Use your marks to figure out the story's theme.

The Silent Radio

1. On Saturday, Nia carried her grandfather's old radio to the neighborhood repair fair. It had stopped making music, and she hoped to surprise him before his birthday. At the first table, a volunteer showed her a loose wire inside. Nia tried to connect it, but her fingers shook, and the wire slipped away again twice.

2. Nia wanted to leave, but she remembered how her grandfather fixed things slowly at his kitchen table. She took a breath and asked the volunteer to show her again. This time, she rested her elbows on the table and used small pliers. The wire clicked into place, but the radio was still silent for now.

3. A second volunteer suggested checking the batteries. Nia found white powder on one battery and replaced it with a fresh one. When music finally filled the room, Nia grinned. She thanked both volunteers and wrote down what they had taught her. At home, her grandfather listened to the radio and said, "You kept working until you understood the problem."

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1 What problem does Nia face at the beginning, and what does she hope to do? Answer in one sentence.

2 What two actions show that Nia keeps trying to solve the problem?

3 What theme does the story support? Write the theme as a complete message, not as one word.

4 List three important events that belong in a summary of the story. Put them in order.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly four sentences about the story. In sentence 1, state a theme. In sentences 2 and 3, explain two details that support the theme. In sentence 4, summarize the story from beginning to end.

ANSWER KEY

Keep Trying

GRADE 4 · RL.4.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details that show Nia does not give up, and circle one detail that shows she accepts help. Use your marks to figure out the story's theme. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What problem does Nia face at the beginning, and what does she hope to do? Answer in one sentence.	**Nia's grandfather's radio has stopped making music, and she hopes to repair it as a birthday surprise for him.**
2	What two actions show that Nia keeps trying to solve the problem?	**She asks the volunteer to show her the repair again and uses small pliers to connect the loose wire.**
3	What theme does the story support? Write the theme as a complete message, not as one word.	**Patience and asking for help can help a person solve a difficult problem.**
4	List three important events that belong in a summary of the story. Put them in order.	**1. Nia brings the silent radio to the repair fair. 2. She keeps working with volunteers to fix the loose wire. 3. She replaces a bad battery, and the radio plays music again.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

One theme is that patience and asking for help can solve a difficult problem. Nia keeps trying after the wire slips and asks a volunteer to show her the repair again. She uses the volunteers' advice to fix the wire and check the battery. Nia brings a silent radio to a repair fair, works with volunteers to fix it, and takes home a working radio for her grandfather.

Accept a reasonable theme stated as a general lesson if it is supported by details from the passage. Accept summaries that include Nia's problem, her efforts with the volunteers, and the working radio outcome without adding unimportant details.