Mending the Bridge

Trace a character's choices from conflict to theme.

5.T.T.1.c "Explain how a theme is demonstrated through a character's growth or conflict resolution. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline Mara's conflict with Eli, circle the choices that show her changing, and number 1, 2, and 3 the events that lead to the resolution.

The Fair Bridge

1 On Saturday, Mara carried the model bridge she had built for the town fair. At the library, she saw that one side had snapped during the bus ride. Her partner, Eli, stared at the broken pieces. "You said you packed it safely," he said. Mara felt her face grow hot. She wanted to blame the crowded bus, but she knew she had rushed and skipped the padding.

2 Eli began gathering their display cards. "We cannot fix this before judging," he said. Mara almost stayed silent because admitting the mistake seemed harder than losing. Then she remembered how her grandfather repaired chairs by asking neighbors to hold the pieces steady. Mara told Eli, "I packed it poorly. I am sorry. Will you help me make a plan?" Eli stopped gathering the cards and looked at her.

3 They asked the librarian for tape, craft sticks, and a quiet table. Eli held the bridge while Mara added new supports underneath. As they worked, Mara listened when Eli suggested testing each piece before gluing it. The bridge did not win a ribbon, but it stood on the display table. Mara thanked Eli for staying. She learned that owning a mistake and working with someone can mend more than a broken project.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What causes the conflict between Mara and Eli?

2. What choice shows that Mara has grown during the story?

3. How do Mara and Eli resolve their conflict?

4. What is one theme of the passage? Explain how Mara's growth and the resolution show that theme.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Invent a new conflict for a character. In 4 or 5 sentences, show the character changing, show how the conflict is resolved, and state a theme in the final sentence.

ANSWER KEY

Mending the Bridge

GRADE 5 · 5.T.T.1.c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline Mara's conflict with Eli, circle the choices that show her changing, and number 1, 2, and 3 the events that lead to the resolution. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What causes the conflict between Mara and Eli?	**The model bridge breaks because Mara rushed and did not add padding, and Eli is upset because he thinks she said it was packed safely.**
2	What choice shows that Mara has grown during the story?	**She admits that she packed the bridge poorly, apologizes, and asks Eli to help make a plan.**
3	How do Mara and Eli resolve their conflict?	**They work together to get supplies and repair the bridge. Mara also listens to Eli's ideas.**
4	What is one theme of the passage? Explain how Mara's growth and the resolution show that theme.	**One theme is that taking responsibility and working together can solve problems. Mara owns her mistake, asks for help, listens to Eli, and they repair the bridge together.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Jalen forgot to water the class seedlings over the weekend and wanted to hide the dry plants. When his partner noticed, Jalen admitted what happened and asked how they could help the plants. They made a watering schedule and moved the weakest seedlings near the window. Taking responsibility and cooperating can solve problems.

Accept reasonable themes that are supported by the character's change and the conflict resolution. For Part 3, accept any four- or five-sentence response with a clear conflict, change, resolution, and final-sentence theme.