The Blocked Path

Read a fable from beginning to end.

2.RC.2 "Recount the beginning, middle, and ending of stories, including fables and folktales from diverse cultures, and determine their central message, lesson, or moral."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number the paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 to show the beginning, middle, and ending. Underline one action that helps show the lesson.

Hare and the Heavy Branch

1. A strong wind blew a fallen branch across the path to the village well. Hare tried to push it away by himself. "I am fast and strong," he said. But the branch did not move.

2. Tortoise came with a rope. "Let us pull together," she said. Hare laughed because Tortoise was small. Then Squirrel called two more neighbors. They tied the rope around the branch and pulled. At last, the branch rolled off the path.

3. Now everyone could reach the well. Hare filled a cup for Tortoise and thanked the others. The next morning, a rock blocked the path. This time, Hare called his neighbors before he tried to move it.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What problem does Hare face at the beginning?

2. How do the animals solve the problem in the middle?

3. What does Hare do when the rock blocks the path at the end? What lesson does this show?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write your own four-sentence animal tale. Tell what happens at the beginning, middle, and end, then state the lesson in the fourth sentence.

ANSWER KEY

The Blocked Path

GRADE 2 · 2.RC.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Number the paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 to show the beginning, middle, and ending. Underline one action that helps show the lesson. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What problem does Hare face at the beginning?	**A fallen branch blocks the path to the well, and Hare cannot move it alone.**
2	How do the animals solve the problem in the middle?	**They tie a rope around the branch and pull together until it rolls off the path.**
3	What does Hare do when the rock blocks the path at the end? What lesson does this show?	**Hare calls his neighbors before trying to move the rock. The lesson is that working together can help solve a hard problem.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A squirrel stored all her nuts beside a stream. The stream flooded, and the nuts floated away. Next time, she stored nuts in several places far from the stream. The lesson is to plan ahead.

For the marking job, accept an underline under the animals pulling together or Hare calling his neighbors. For the original tale, look for a clear beginning, middle, ending, and a lesson that fits its events.