Small Work Matters

Read a fable, recount its events, and find its lesson.

3.RC.2 "Recount folktales, fables, and tall tales from diverse cultures; identify the themes in these works."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Write 1, 2, and 3 beside the main events in the order they happen, then underline Peacock's words that show what he learns.

The Millet Patch

1 Beside a village in India, Sparrow found a patch of dry earth under a banyan tree. She wanted to grow millet there, so she pressed tiny seeds into the soil. Tortoise carried pebbles to make a ring around the patch. Peacock spread his bright tail and laughed. “Such little workers!” he called. “What can your small seeds and stones do?”

2 That night, heavy rain poured down. Water rushed toward the seeds. Sparrow flew to a low branch and cried for help. Tortoise's pebbles slowed the water, but some began to roll away. Peacock heard Sparrow and ran over. He kicked the loose stones back into place. Together, the three animals kept the soil from washing away.

3 Many weeks later, green millet grew inside the ring of stones. Sparrow shared the ripe seeds with the other birds. Tortoise rested in the shade of the tall plants. Peacock looked at the little patch and lowered his head. “I was wrong to laugh,” he said. “Your small work mattered, and I could help, too.” From then on, he helped care for the plants.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Recount how Sparrow and Tortoise start the millet patch and how Peacock reacts.

2. What happens during the storm, in order? Tell how Tortoise's work and Peacock's work help.

3. How does Peacock act differently at the end than at the start?

4. What lesson does this fable teach? Use one event to support your idea.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Retell the fable from Tortoise's point of view in four or five sentences. Include what happened first, during the rain, and at the end, then state a lesson the events teach.

ANSWER KEY

Small Work Matters

GRADE 3 · 3.RC.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Write 1, 2, and 3 beside the main events in the order they happen, then underline Peacock's words that show what he learns. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Recount how Sparrow and Tortoise start the millet patch and how Peacock reacts.	**Sparrow plants millet seeds, and Tortoise makes a ring of pebbles around them. Peacock laughs at their small work.**
2	What happens during the storm, in order? Tell how Tortoise's work and Peacock's work help.	**Rainwater rushes toward the seeds. Tortoise's pebbles slow it, but some roll away. Peacock kicks the loose stones back into place, helping keep the soil from washing away.**
3	How does Peacock act differently at the end than at the start?	**At first, Peacock laughs at Sparrow and Tortoise. At the end, he says their work mattered and helps care for the plants.**
4	What lesson does this fable teach? Use one event to support your idea.	**Small efforts matter when everyone helps. For example, Tortoise's pebbles slow the rainwater, and Peacock helps keep them in place.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I carried pebbles to Sparrow's millet patch while Peacock laughed at our small work. When heavy rain came, my pebble ring slowed the water, but some stones rolled away. Peacock kicked the stones back into place, and together we saved the soil. Many weeks later, millet grew, Sparrow shared its seeds, and Peacock helped care for the plants. I learned that small efforts matter when we work together.

For the marking job, accept numbers beside the planting, storm, and grown millet, plus an underline beneath Peacock's words about their work mattering. Accept other lessons supported by events in the fable.