The Muddy Path

Use story clues to find a lesson.

RL.2.2 "Identify implicit and explicit information from a literary text to determine the author's message, lesson learned and/or moral, including but not limited to fables and folktales from diverse cultures."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one part where Nia helps the neighbors and one part where the neighbors help Nia. Circle a word that shows how Nia feels after her cart is free.

The Lantern and the Cart

1. At dusk, Nia saw three neighbors by the muddy path. They needed to carry baskets home, but clouds hid the moon. Nia held up her small lantern. "Follow me," she said, and walked slowly so no one slipped.

2. The next day, Nia's little cart, full of bread, got stuck in the mud. She pushed and pushed, but the wheel would not move. The same neighbors came down the path. They set down their baskets and pulled the cart free.

3. Nia smiled at her muddy shoes. "Now I can bring the bread home," she said. A neighbor handed Nia a cloth to wipe her hands. Together they walked toward the village, with baskets in their arms and bread in the cart.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does Nia's choice to walk slowly show about her? Use a clue from the story.

2. What do the neighbors' actions show about how they feel toward Nia? Give one clue.

3. What lesson does the story teach? Tell how Nia and the neighbors show it.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences about a new character in a different place who helps someone and later gets help. End with the lesson a reader could learn.

ANSWER KEY

The Muddy Path

GRADE 2 · RL.2.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one part where Nia helps the neighbors and one part where the neighbors help Nia. Circle a word that shows how Nia feels after her cart is free. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does Nia's choice to walk slowly show about her? Use a clue from the story.	**Nia cares about the neighbors. She walks slowly so no one slips.**
2	What do the neighbors' actions show about how they feel toward Nia? Give one clue.	**They care about Nia. They set down their baskets and pull her cart free.**
3	What lesson does the story teach? Tell how Nia and the neighbors show it.	**Helping others matters. Nia lights the path for the neighbors, and later they help free her cart.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the playground, Leo helped Sam find his lost glove. Later, Sam helped Leo gather the blocks he had dropped. When you help someone, that person may help you too.

Accept other supported ideas about Nia and the neighbors, such as kindness or thanks. For the open task, look for two acts of help and a lesson that fits them.