The Dragon's Grin

Notice how characters' choices move a story forward.

RL.3.3 "Describe characters in a story, including but not limited to their traits, motivations, actions or feelings, and how they affect the plot."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two actions that change what happens in the show, and circle words that tell why the characters take those actions.

The Puppet Show

1. On Friday, Ben's class was ready for a puppet show. Ben had made a green dragon from a paper bag. Just before the show, the bag ripped across its mouth. Ben stared at the tear and hid the puppet behind his back. He did not want the younger children to see a broken dragon, but he had no time to make a new one.

2. Amira noticed the tear while the other actors took their places. She was quiet in front of crowds, but she loved solving puzzles. She found a strip of tape and held the bag open so Ben could fix it from the inside. Then she said, "That tear could be a huge dragon grin!" Ben smiled and added two paper teeth below the rip.

3. When the curtain opened, Ben made the dragon grin at the audience. The younger children laughed instead of staring at the patch. Halfway through the show, Ben forgot the dragon's next line. Amira whispered it from behind the curtain because she wanted their story to finish. Ben spoke the line, and the class reached the ending together. Afterward, Ben thanked Amira for helping twice.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why does Ben hide the dragon, and what problem does he still face before the show?

2. What does Amira do that shows she likes solving problems, and how does it help Ben's puppet?

3. How does Ben's choice to use the tear as a grin change the audience's reaction?

4. Why does Amira whisper Ben's line, and how does her action affect the show?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine Amira makes a different choice when Ben forgets his line. Write three sentences telling what she does, why she does it, and how her choice changes the show.

ANSWER KEY

The Dragon's Grin

GRADE 3 · RL.3.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two actions that change what happens in the show, and circle words that tell why the characters take those actions. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why does Ben hide the dragon, and what problem does he still face before the show?	**Ben does not want the younger children to see a broken dragon. He still needs a puppet for the show and has no time to make a new one.**
2	What does Amira do that shows she likes solving problems, and how does it help Ben's puppet?	**She finds tape and holds the bag open so Ben can fix it. She also suggests making the tear into a dragon grin.**
3	How does Ben's choice to use the tear as a grin change the audience's reaction?	**The younger children laugh at the dragon's grin instead of staring at the patch.**
4	Why does Amira whisper Ben's line, and how does her action affect the show?	**She wants their story to finish. Her whisper helps Ben speak the line so the class can reach the ending.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Amira steps out from behind the curtain and says the missing line because she wants to help Ben. Ben is surprised, but he lets her play the dragon's friend. Together they finish the show with a new character onstage.

Accept answers supported by the passage that connect a character's feeling, trait, or choice to what happens next. For Your Turn, accept any plausible different action with a clear reason and effect on the show.