Two Kites Rising

Use details from a story to support what you know and what you infer.

RL.7.1 "Cite multiple pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that state what happened to the blue kite, and circle at least two different details that help you infer why a character makes a choice.

The Spare Rod

1 By the time the judges raised their flags, Nia had checked her kite's bamboo frame three times. Its red paper was tight, and the spare bamboo rod in her bag was just the right length to replace a spar if one snapped. Across the field, Tess lifted a blue kite she had made with her little brother. He had painted a crooked moon near its tail. Tess waved to him beside the fence, then pulled on the string. A gust caught the kite before she could let go.

2 The blue kite struck a bench. One bamboo spar cracked, and the paper split along the moon's edge. Tess pressed the pieces together, but they sprang apart. 'We can still fly it,' she told her brother, though her hands shook. Nia reached into her bag and touched the spare rod. The judges had announced that repairs must end when the next flag rose. She looked at her own kite, then at Tess's brother, who was holding the painted tail as if it might blow away.

3 Nia carried the rod to Tess. 'It's yours if it fits,' she said. Tess cut a strip from her scarf to bind the frame, while Nia held the torn paper flat. The next flag rose just as they finished. Their kites climbed together, red beside blue, until the blue one dipped and nearly touched the grass. No ribbon went to either kite. On the walk home, Tess's brother asked Nia if the moon could be painted on her kite next year. Nia said, 'Only if you teach me how.'

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What two details show that Tess's kite needed a repair after it hit the bench? Cite both details.

2. Why might Nia hesitate before offering Tess the spare rod? Support your inference with two details.

3. Why does Tess keep trying to fix the kite even though her hands shake? Support your inference with two details.

4. What evidence shows that repairing the blue kite was a team effort? Cite two different actions.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Would Nia have helped Tess if no judges were watching? Write a short paragraph explaining your inference. Use at least two details from different paragraphs of the story, and explain how each supports your thinking.

ANSWER KEY

Two Kites Rising

GRADE 7 · RL.7.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details that state what happened to the blue kite, and circle at least two different details that help you infer why a character makes a choice. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two details show that Tess's kite needed a repair after it hit the bench? Cite both details.	**A bamboo spar cracked, and the paper split along the moon's edge.**
2	Why might Nia hesitate before offering Tess the spare rod? Support your inference with two details.	**Nia may worry about losing her own chance to fly. She packed the rod in case a spar on her kite snapped, and she looks at her kite while the repair deadline approaches.**
3	Why does Tess keep trying to fix the kite even though her hands shake? Support your inference with two details.	**She likely wants her brother to see their kite fly. They made it together, and she tells him, 'We can still fly it,' after it breaks.**
4	What evidence shows that repairing the blue kite was a team effort? Cite two different actions.	**Tess cuts a strip from her scarf to bind the frame, while Nia holds the torn paper flat. Nia also supplies the spare rod.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I think Nia would have helped even without judges watching. In the second paragraph, she notices Tess's brother holding the painted tail 'as if it might blow away.' This suggests she understands that the kite matters to him. In the third paragraph, she offers the rod and helps hold the torn paper. After neither kite wins a ribbon, she agrees to learn how to paint a moon from him. Her interest in helping them lasts beyond the contest.

Accept other reasonable inferences when students cite at least two distinct, accurate details and explain how those details support their claims. For Your Turn, the details must come from different paragraphs.