

The Birdhouse Lesson

Find the message, supporting details, and summary in a short story.

4R2 "Determine a theme or central idea of text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize a text. (RI&RL)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details that show how Nia responds to a problem, and circle the sentence that best reveals the story's message.

Nia's Birdhouse

- ① On Saturday, Nia planned to build a birdhouse for her grandmother. She spread wood pieces across the garage floor and studied the instruction sheet. Nia wanted the gift to be a surprise, so when her older brother, Leo, offered to help, she said, "I can do it myself." She measured quickly and began hammering the first wall.
- ② The nail bent, and the board slipped sideways. Nia felt her cheeks grow warm. She tried again, but the second nail bent too. Leo did not laugh or grab the hammer. He pointed to a clamp on the workbench and explained that it could hold the wood still. Nia paused, then asked him to show her how to use it.
- ③ With the board held tight, Nia hammered straight nails into the walls. Leo let her do the work, but he stayed nearby to answer questions. Together, they checked each step on the sheet. By noon, the birdhouse had a roof and a small round doorway. Nia carried it to her grandmother's porch, proud that she had built it and wise enough to accept help.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is one theme, or message, of the story?

2 What two details support the theme you named?

3 How does Nia change from the beginning to the end of the story? Use details from the story.

4 Write a two- or three-sentence summary of the story. Include Nia's problem, what she does, and the result.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a four-sentence mini-story about someone facing a problem and using help wisely. Add a fifth sentence that states the story's theme.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three details that show how Nia responds to a problem, and circle the sentence that best reveals the story's message. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is one theme, or message, of the story?	Accepting help can help a person solve a problem while still doing their own work.
2	What two details support the theme you named?	Nia first refuses Leo's offer of help, but later asks him to show her how to use the clamp. Leo lets Nia do the work while staying nearby to answer questions.
3	How does Nia change from the beginning to the end of the story? Use details from the story.	At first, Nia insists that she can build the birdhouse alone. By the end, she accepts Leo's help and understands that asking for help is wise.
4	Write a two- or three-sentence summary of the story. Include Nia's problem, what she does, and the result.	Nia tries to build a birdhouse alone, but bent nails and a slipping board make the job difficult. She asks Leo to show her how to use a clamp, and she finishes the birdhouse with his support.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Sam tried to carry every grocery bag from the car at once. When two bags tore, he let his neighbor hold the heavy cans while he carried the lighter food. They made two safe trips and finished quickly. Sam thanked his neighbor and chose to ask for help next time. Theme: Asking for help can make a hard job safer and easier.

Accept reasonable theme statements that are supported by Nia's choice to accept Leo's help and complete the birdhouse. A summary should state the problem, the important action, and the outcome without retelling every detail.