

The Second Launch

Find a theme, trace its supporting details, and summarize.

5R2 "Determine a theme or central idea 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 two actions Eli takes after his boat has trouble, and number the actions 1 and 2. These details will help you identify a theme.

Eli's Model Boat

- ① On Saturday, Eli entered the town's model boat race with a boat he had built from a milk carton. At the pond, a breeze pushed it in circles instead of toward the finish rope. Some racers laughed when it bumped the dock. Eli felt his face grow warm, but he carried the boat back to the picnic table.
- ② He studied the other boats and noticed that their tall sails caught the wind. Eli cut a smaller sail from a paper bag and taped it lower on his mast. He also added a clay pebble inside the carton so it would not tip. The race official said the next heat would begin in five minutes.
- ③ When the signal sounded, Eli's boat moved straight across the pond. It did not win, but it reached the finish rope before two other boats. Eli wrote down what had worked and what he might change next time. As he packed up, he decided that a mistake could be useful if he stopped, observed, and tried a new plan.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is one theme of the passage?

2 Give two details that support the theme.

3 How does Eli's decision to write down his results support the theme?

4 Write a two-sentence summary of the passage.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a five-sentence story about a person who faces a setback and responds. Make the last sentence state a theme, and include two story details that support it.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two actions Eli takes after his boat has trouble, and number the actions 1 and 2. These details will help you identify a theme. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is one theme of the passage?	Mistakes can lead to improvement when a person observes the problem and tries a new plan.
2	Give two details that support the theme.	Eli studies the other boats, then changes his sail and adds a clay pebble to his boat. After the race, he writes down what worked and what he might change next time.
3	How does Eli's decision to write down his results support the theme?	It shows that Eli reflects on the problem and plans another improvement instead of giving up.
4	Write a two-sentence summary of the passage.	Eli's carton boat goes in circles at a model boat race. He observes other boats, changes his sail and adds weight, then reaches the finish rope and learns that mistakes can guide a new plan.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Rina's robot stopped moving before the school showcase. She checked the wires and found one loose connection. After fastening it, she tested the robot again and changed its route around a chair. The robot completed its task when visitors arrived. This story's theme is that careful effort can solve problems.

Accept reasonable theme statements about learning from mistakes, persistence, reflection, or problem solving when they are supported by accurate passage details. For the open response, accept any clear five-sentence story with a stated theme and at least two details that support it.