Work That Matters

Read how Oklahoma's motto connects to everyday work.

3.C.1.3.D "Identify and explain the meaning of the Oklahoma motto, "Labor omnia vincit," reflecting the importance of hard work and labor."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline Oklahoma's motto and its English meaning. Write 1 beside a sentence about the farmer's work and 2 beside a sentence about work after the storm.

A Motto at Work

1. On Oklahoma's state seal, a short Latin motto reads, "Labor omnia vincit." In English, it means "Work conquers all things." The words honor the value of labor, or work done with effort. They do not mean that every hard task is easy. They tell us that steady work can help people face problems and make their communities better.

2. Think of a farmer in Oklahoma. Before seeds can grow into food, the farmer must prepare the soil, plant the seeds, and care for the crops. Hot days and weeds can make the job hard. The harvest does not appear in one afternoon. Day after day, the farmer keeps working. This steady effort shows what the motto means in daily life.

3. Hard work matters beyond a farm, too. When a storm damages a school, workers may clear fallen branches and fix broken windows. Teachers may set up safe places for students to learn. Each person has a different job, but all of them help the school open again. The motto reminds Oklahomans that effort, including work done together, can help solve problems.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is Oklahoma's motto, and what does it mean in English?

2. How does the farmer's work show the meaning of the motto?

3. How does the work after the storm show the meaning of the motto?

4. Why does “Work conquers all things” not mean that every hard task is easy?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Think of a job not described in the passage that helps your community. In two or three sentences, tell what the person does and explain how the job shows the meaning of Oklahoma's motto.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 3 · 3.C.1.3.D

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline Oklahoma's motto and its English meaning. Write 1 beside a sentence about the farmer's work and 2 beside a sentence about work after the storm. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is Oklahoma's motto, and what does it mean in English?	**The motto is "Labor omnia vincit." It means "Work conquers all things."**
2	How does the farmer's work show the meaning of the motto?	**The farmer keeps preparing the soil, planting seeds, and caring for crops, even when the work is hard. That effort helps produce a harvest.**
3	How does the work after the storm show the meaning of the motto?	**Workers make repairs and teachers prepare safe places to learn. Their work together helps the school open again.**
4	Why does "Work conquers all things" not mean that every hard task is easy?	**The motto means steady work can help people face problems, even when the work is difficult.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A bus driver checks the bus and follows the route each morning. This work helps people get where they need to go. The job shows that steady work can help a community.

Accept "Labor conquers all things" as a translation. For the open task, accept a new job if the student explains how its work helps others or solves a problem.