The Marble Track

Retell a story and find the lesson its events reveal.

3.RL.2 "Retell stories, determine the central message and theme and explain how it is revealed through key details in the text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Write 1, 2, and 3 beside the key events at the beginning, middle, and end of the story, then underline one action that shows what Jada learned.

The Bell at the End

1 At the school fair, Jada built a marble track from cardboard tubes. She wanted the marble to zip through a tunnel and ring a tiny bell. Luis offered to help, but Jada shook her head. "I know just how it should go," she said. She taped the tubes to a tall box, dropped in the marble, and waited for the ring.

2 Instead, the marble stopped where two tubes met. Jada pushed it with a pencil, but it stuck again on the next try. She added more tape, and the marble still would not pass. Luis crouched beside the track. "There is a little edge inside," he said. "What if we slide one tube farther into the other?" Jada looked at the bumpy join.

3 Jada peeled off the tape and slid the tubes together as Luis had shown her. This time the marble rolled through and tapped the bell. Ding! Jada grinned, then moved aside so Luis could add another tube to the track. When the next group came to watch, Jada said, "Luis spotted the problem. Come help us make an even longer track!"

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Retell what Jada wanted to happen and what went wrong at first.

2. Retell how Jada and Luis got the bell to ring.

3. What lesson does Jada learn? Name one event that shows it.

4. How do Jada's actions at the beginning and end show that she has changed?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a new four-sentence story about someone who learns a lesson different from Jada's. In the first three sentences, show a beginning, middle, and end; in the fourth, state the lesson and name an event that shows it.

ANSWER KEY

The Marble Track

GRADE 3 · 3.RL.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Write 1, 2, and 3 beside the key events at the beginning, middle, and end of the story, then underline one action that shows what Jada learned. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Retell what Jada wanted to happen and what went wrong at first.	**Jada wanted a marble to roll through her track and ring a bell, but it stopped where two tubes met.**
2	Retell how Jada and Luis got the bell to ring.	**Luis noticed an edge inside the track. Jada slid one tube farther into the other, so the marble could roll through and tap the bell.**
3	What lesson does Jada learn? Name one event that shows it.	**Listening to others can help solve a problem. Jada followed Luis's idea, and the marble reached the bell.**
4	How do Jada's actions at the beginning and end show that she has changed?	**At first, Jada turned down Luis's help. At the end, she let him add to the track and invited others to help, showing that she now values their ideas.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Omar wanted to win the sack race, so he practiced without waiting for his little sister. When he saw her fall, he stopped and helped her stand. They crossed the yard together, and she smiled all the way. The lesson is that caring for others matters more than winning, as Omar showed when he stopped to help.

Accept other accurate retellings and lessons supported by the passage, such as being open to help. For the new story, look for a different lesson made clear by a specific event.