The Higher Choice

Find a story's theme and the details that support it

4.RL.2 "Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem and explain how it is supported by details in the text; summarize the text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline Nia's goal, circle the moment she chooses what to do, and number two details near the end that show what matters to her.

Nia's Kite

1 At the town's kite festival, Nia wanted to win the highest kite contest more than anything. She had spent a week building a bright red kite with her grandfather. When the whistle blew, her kite climbed above the field. Then she saw Omar, a younger boy, staring at his kite. Its string had tangled around the leg of a picnic table.

2 Nia looked at the judge beside the field. If she kept running, her kite might climb higher than anyone else's. Omar tugged at his string, and the paper on his kite began to tear. Nia stopped, wound in her own string, and set her kite on the grass. She carefully slipped Omar's string free from the table leg.

3 By the time Nia picked up her kite, the contest was almost over. Her kite rose again, but it did not climb high enough to win. Omar ran beside her, grinning as his blue kite lifted into the air. Later, he asked Nia to help him build a stronger kite for next year. Nia smiled and began planning which paper they could use.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What theme does Nia's choice help show? State it as a lesson, not one word.

2. Which two details from the middle paragraph support that theme? Explain how they connect.

3. How does the ending support the theme even though Nia does not win?

4. Summarize the story in two or three sentences. Include Nia's goal, her choice, and the result.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five-sentence mini-story about a different character facing a difficult choice at school. In sentence five, state a theme and explain how one detail in your story supports it.

ANSWER KEY

The Higher Choice

GRADE 4 · 4.RL.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline Nia's goal, circle the moment she chooses what to do, and number two details near the end that show what matters to her. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What theme does Nia's choice help show? State it as a lesson, not one word.	**Helping someone can matter more than winning.**
2	Which two details from the middle paragraph support that theme? Explain how they connect.	**Nia sees Omar's kite beginning to tear, then sets down her own kite to free his string. She gives up time in the contest to help him.**
3	How does the ending support the theme even though Nia does not win?	**Omar flies his kite and asks Nia to build one with him next year. Nia smiles and starts planning with him.**
4	Summarize the story in two or three sentences. Include Nia's goal, her choice, and the result.	**Nia hopes to win a kite contest, but she stops to free Omar's tangled string. She does not win, but Omar gets to fly his kite and asks her to build one with him next year.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Jules spilled water on the class poster while everyone was at recess. He wanted to blame the open window, but he told his group what happened. Together, they dried the poster and drew the smeared letters again. His group thanked him for telling them early enough to fix it. The theme is that honesty helps people solve problems, shown when Jules tells the group about the spill.

Accept other themes supported by Nia's actions and the ending, such as friendship being more valuable than a prize. Summaries should include the main events without adding events that are not in the passage.