# Kindness at the River

Use plot events and dialogue to find a fable's lesson.

**2.RL** "The student will use textual evidence to demonstrate comprehension and build knowledge from a variety of grade-level complex literary texts heard or read to include fantasy, humor, fable/fairy tale, realistic fiction, historical fiction..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Number 1, 2, and 3 beside the events that show how Mina and Tari solve the stuck-basket problem. Circle Mina's spoken words to see what her words show about her.

### Mina and the Basket

1. Mina Mouse carried seeds to her winter burrow. At the river, she saw Tari Tortoise trying to pull a heavy basket from the mud. "I must reach the market before sunset," Tari said. Mina worried that helping would slow her journey.

2. Mina remembered that Tari had shared water during a dry summer. She tied a reed around the basket and asked, "Can we pull together?" Tari smiled. They tugged until the basket came free. Then Mina raced home with fewer seeds before dark.

3. The next morning, Tari brought Mina a pouch of seeds from the market. Mina learned that a short delay can help everyone. When neighbors work together and remember kindness, both can solve hard problems.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the central conflict in the story? Use two events from the passage to explain your answer.

2. What trait does Mina show when she says, “Can we pull together?” Use an event from the story to explain.

3. Retell the story in order. Write one event for First, Next, and Last. Then tell the lesson Mina learns.

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine Mina sees a bird struggling to carry sticks. Predict what Mina will do, and use one detail from the story to explain why. Write two sentences.

**ANSWER KEY**

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## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Number 1, 2, and 3 beside the events that show how Mina and Tari solve the stuck-basket problem. Circle Mina's spoken words to see what her words show about her. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | What is the central conflict in the story? Use two events from the passage to explain your answer. | **Tari's basket is stuck, and Mina must decide whether to stop and help. Mina sees Tari struggling and worries that helping will slow her journey, but she chooses to help pull the basket free.** |
| 2 | What trait does Mina show when she says, "Can we pull together?" Use an event from the story to explain. | **Mina is helpful and grateful. She remembers that Tari shared water during a dry summer, so she helps Tari with the basket.** |
| 3 | Retell the story in order. Write one event for First, Next, and Last. Then tell the lesson Mina learns. | **First, Mina sees Tari's basket stuck in the mud. Next, Mina and Tari pull the basket free together. Last, Tari brings Mina seeds from the market. The lesson is that remembering kindness and working together can solve problems.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I predict Mina will stop to help the bird carry the sticks. She will remember that Tari shared water and that working together freed the basket.

Accept answers that identify the stuck basket and Mina's choice to help as the main conflict, supported by passage events. For the open response, accept a reasonable prediction supported by a specific detail about Mina's actions, thoughts, or the story's lesson.