Nia's Wobbly Wheel

Identify the topic and lesson through a character's choices.

3.RL.1.A "Identify thematic topics of stories (e.g. friendship, survival, determination) and the lessons learned."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two actions Nia takes to solve her problem, then circle the one sentence that tells the lesson she learned.

The Hill Race

1. On Saturday, Nia carried her soapbox car to the hill for the neighborhood race. At the starting line, she noticed that one wheel wobbled. The race began in twenty minutes. Nia wanted to leave, but she remembered the careful work she had done all week. She rolled the car beneath a shady tree and looked closely at the wheel.

2. Her friend Mateo offered to pull Nia's car to the start, but Nia shook her head. “Could you hold this bolt?” she asked. Using a small wrench, she tightened the loose part. Then she tested the wheel by spinning it. It still rubbed against the wooden frame. Nia moved the washer, tried again, and watched the wheel turn smoothly.

3. The announcer called for racers. Nia hurried back to the line and pushed off. Her car did not win first place, yet it rolled all the way down the hill. Mateo cheered as Nia crossed the finish line with a wide smile. Nia learned that determination means continuing to work when a problem makes a goal hard to reach.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What thematic topic does this story show?

2. Name two actions Nia takes that show the story's thematic topic.

3. What lesson does Nia learn?

4. How does Nia finishing the race support the lesson?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence mini-story about a character facing a problem. In the last sentence, name the thematic topic and state the lesson.

ANSWER KEY

Nia's Wobbly Wheel

GRADE 3 · 3.RL.1.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two actions Nia takes to solve her problem, then circle the one sentence that tells the lesson she learned. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What thematic topic does this story show?	**Determination.**
2	Name two actions Nia takes that show the story's thematic topic.	**She tightens the loose bolt and moves the washer so the wheel can turn smoothly.**
3	What lesson does Nia learn?	**Determination means continuing to work when a problem makes a goal hard to reach.**
4	How does Nia finishing the race support the lesson?	**She keeps working on the car and reaches the finish line even though she does not win first place.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Jalen saw that Priya had dropped her papers in a puddle before class. He used his dry art folder to carry the papers and helped her gather them. The thematic topic is kindness, and the lesson is to help someone when you can.

Accept determination, perseverance, or not giving up as the thematic topic. Accept lesson responses that explain continuing to work through a problem, even if the student uses different words.