Kite Through Clouds

Trace a character's choices to find a theme.

4.RL.1.A "Summarize the theme of stories, dramas, or poetry, including the thematic topic (e.g., courage, loyalty, family) and how characters respond to challenges."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the challenge Maya faces, circle each action she takes to respond, and number the actions in the order they happen so you can figure out the story's theme.

Maya's Kite

1. On Saturday morning, Maya carried her homemade paper kite to the hill behind the library. She had spent three afternoons painting its blue tail with tiny silver stars. At the hill, dark clouds rolled in, and a sharp wind bent the grass. When Maya lifted the kite, one string snapped. The kite tumbled into a muddy puddle.

2. Maya wanted to run home before the rain began. Instead, she carried the wet kite to the library's workshop table. Her cousin Leo found tape, dry string, and a ruler. Maya smoothed the torn paper, measured two equal lengths of string, and tied them tightly. She tested the kite near an open window. It rose a little, then dipped, so she adjusted the knot.

3. By afternoon, the clouds had drifted away. Maya and Leo returned to the hill, but the wind was softer now. Maya walked farther up the slope and waited for a stronger gust. When it came, she let out the string slowly. The kite climbed above the trees, its silver stars flashing. Leo cheered, and Maya laughed. She knew a problem did not have to end her plan.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What challenge could have stopped Maya from flying her kite?

2. How does Maya respond after her kite is damaged? Give two actions she takes.

3. What thematic topic fits this story best? Use one detail from the story to support your answer.

4. What lesson does Maya learn at the end, and how does her final action support that lesson?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly three sentences that summarize the theme of the story. Name the thematic topic and challenge, describe at least two of Maya's actions, and state the lesson her actions show.

ANSWER KEY

Kite Through Clouds

GRADE 4 · 4.RL.1.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the challenge Maya faces, circle each action she takes to respond, and number the actions in the order they happen so you can figure out the story's theme. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What challenge could have stopped Maya from flying her kite?	**A string snapped, and the kite fell into a muddy puddle as rain was coming.**
2	How does Maya respond after her kite is damaged? Give two actions she takes.	**She takes the kite to the workshop table, repairs it with tape and new string, tests it, and adjusts the knot.**
3	What thematic topic fits this story best? Use one detail from the story to support your answer.	**Perseverance. Maya keeps working on the damaged kite instead of going home.**
4	What lesson does Maya learn at the end, and how does her final action support that lesson?	**She learns that a problem does not have to end her plan. She waits for a stronger gust and lets out the string until the kite flies.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The thematic topic is perseverance, and Maya faces a broken kite as rain begins. Rather than quit, she repairs the kite, tests it, adjusts the knot, and waits for a stronger gust. The story's theme is that continuing to work through problems can help you reach your goal.

Accept thematic topics such as perseverance, determination, or not giving up when they are supported by Maya's actions. A complete response should connect the challenge, Maya's choices, and a clear lesson.