The Dotted Bowl

Trace events and details that reveal a story's lesson.

5.RL.1.A "Summarize the story or play, including the overarching theme and lessons learned, and explain how they are developed or conveyed through specific details."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the three events you would include in a summary, circle two details that show a lesson, and number the underlined events 1, 2, and 3 in order.

The Dotted Bowl

(1) On Saturday, Mara planned to sell clay bowls at the town market. She had spent weeks shaping them, and she hoped to earn enough for new paintbrushes. At dawn, her younger brother, Eli, bumped the table where the bowls dried. One bowl cracked down the middle. Eli whispered, "I am sorry," then reached for his coat as if he might run away.

(2) Mara wanted to scold him, but she saw his wet eyes. Instead, she asked Eli to bring water and clay scraps. Together, they pressed the crack closed and covered it with small blue dots. The repair looked different from the other bowls. Mara worried that shoppers would choose the smooth ones, yet she placed the dotted bowl at the front of her table.

(3) Near noon, a baker picked up the dotted bowl. Mara explained that Eli had helped mend it rather than hiding what happened. The baker smiled and bought it for her kitchen window. Later, Mara used part of the money for paintbrushes and part for a tiny clay tool for Eli. As they walked home, Eli said he would be more careful. Mara answered that mistakes matter most when people choose what to do next.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Write a two-sentence summary of the story. Include the problem, the important actions, and the ending.

2. What is one theme of the story? Use two details from the story to explain how the theme is developed.

3. How do Mara's choices show that she values Eli more than having a perfect bowl? Use two specific actions.

4. How does the final conversation between Mara and Eli help convey the story's lesson?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly three sentences explaining a theme of the story. State the theme in the first sentence, explain an early or middle detail in the second sentence, and explain how the ending supports the theme in the third sentence.

ANSWER KEY

The Dotted Bowl

GRADE 5 · 5.RL.1.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the three events you would include in a summary, circle two details that show a lesson, and number the underlined events 1, 2, and 3 in order. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Write a two-sentence summary of the story. Include the problem, the important actions, and the ending.	**Mara plans to sell bowls, but Eli cracks one and fears her anger. Mara works with him to repair it, sells the bowl, and shares her earnings after they learn to respond responsibly to mistakes.**
2	What is one theme of the story? Use two details from the story to explain how the theme is developed.	**One theme is that people can respond to mistakes with honesty and teamwork. Mara repairs the bowl with Eli instead of scolding him, and she tells the baker how it was mended rather than hiding the crack.**
3	How do Mara's choices show that she values Eli more than having a perfect bowl? Use two specific actions.	**Mara asks Eli to help repair the bowl when he is upset, and she puts the repaired bowl at the front of the table even though it looks different. She also uses some of the money to buy Eli a clay tool.**
4	How does the final conversation between Mara and Eli help convey the story's lesson?	**Eli says he will be more careful, showing that he accepts responsibility. Mara explains that what people do after a mistake matters, which states the lesson that mistakes can lead to better choices.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The story's theme is that mistakes can lead to growth when people respond with honesty and care. Early in the story, Mara sees Eli's fear and helps him repair the cracked bowl instead of shaming him. At the end, she shares her money with Eli, and his promise to be careful shows that both characters learned from the mistake.

Accept themes about responsibility, honesty, kindness, teamwork, or learning from mistakes when students support them with accurate details. Summaries should include the cracked bowl, the repair, and the outcome without retelling every minor event.