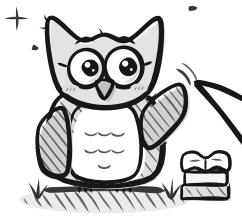
Name : _____ Date : _____

PAPILUMO | 3rd Grade · Answer key

Short Story Comprehension

Read the whole two-paragraph nature story, then complete all 4 tasks below: main idea, sequence 1-2-3, written answers, and vocabulary.



Plume the Librarian Owl's tip: the main idea tells what the whole story is mostly about, not just one tiny detail!

Reader's Guide

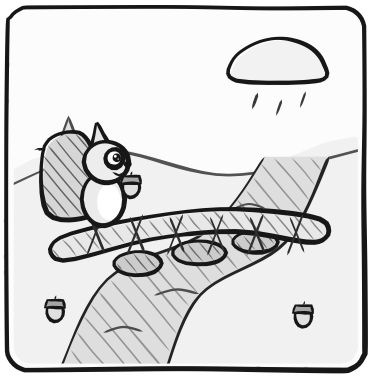
Main idea = big whole-story message.

Text clue = proof from a paragraph.

Sacha the Squirrel and the Bridge Across the Brook

On a breezy October morning, Sacha the squirrel gathered shiny acorns beside the forest brook. Suddenly, he spotted a fallen branch blocking the narrow stepping stones and turning the shallow water muddy. The smaller woodland animals could no longer cross safely to reach their cozy burrows on dry ground.

Before heavy autumn rain arrived, Sacha called Milo the hedgehog and Nina the weasel to help. Together, they rolled the sturdy branch across flat stones and wove smaller twigs along both sides. Thanks to that steady bridge, every friend crossed the brook safely just before the first raindrops fell.



1. Circle the best main idea of the whole story:

A. Sacha enjoys counting shiny acorns under yellow October leaves.

B. Sacha and his friends work together to build a safe brook bridge before rain.

C. Shallow forest brooks always turn muddy when the wind blows.

2. Number these three story events 1, 2, 3 in chronological order:

2 Sacha and his friends roll a branch and weave twigs into a bridge.

3 Every woodland friend crosses safely just before the first raindrops fall.

1 A fallen branch blocks the stepping stones and muddies the brook.

3. Answer both comprehension questions in a complete sentence:

a) Why did Sacha and his friends hurry to fix the crossing?

They hurried so every animal could cross safely before heavy autumn rain fell.

b) How did the forest animals make the bridge steady and safe?

They rolled the sturdy branch over flat stones and wove twigs along both sides.

4. Vocabulary hunt: copy one word from paragraph 2 that means the opposite of 'alone':

Together

Plume's tip: scan paragraph 2 sentence by sentence when hunting for a vocabulary word, then check that it makes sense.