4TH GRADE READING · FICTION

The Bridge That Fell

Name _____ Date _____

Fiction | 200 words | Theme

I read it: ☆ to myself ☆ to a grown-up ☆ to a friend

1 Hamza had spent two whole weeks building a bridge out of craft sticks and glue for the school science fair. It was long and smooth, and he had painted it bright red. The rule was simple: the bridge had to cross a gap between two desks and hold as many pennies as possible.

2 On testing day, Hamza set his bridge across the gap. Ms. Rivera dropped in the pennies one by one. Ten. Twenty. Thirty. Then, with a loud crack, the bridge folded in the middle, and pennies **scattered** across the floor. A few kids **giggled.** Hamza's face burned.

3 That night he wanted to throw the pieces away. Instead, his older sister Sana asked, "Where did it break?" Hamza looked closer. The sticks had bent right in the center, where nothing was holding them up. Sana pulled up pictures of real bridges. Many of them were made of triangles.

4 Hamza **rebuilt** his bridge with triangles along both sides. It was not as pretty, but when he tested it at home, it held two hundred pennies. At the fair the next week, he won second place. On his poster he wrote: "My first bridge failed. Here is what it taught me."

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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The Bridge That Fell: questions

Name _____ Date _____

I can find answers in the text. Look back at the story to check.

1 Circle the best answer

1. Why did the first bridge break?

(a) the middle was weak (b) the glue was still wet (c) it was painted red

2. How did Sana help Hamza?

(a) she bought new sticks (b) she rebuilt the bridge (c) she asked where it broke

3. What is the theme of the story?

(a) bridges should be red (b) mistakes can teach us (c) winning is everything

2 Put the events in order. Write 1, 2, 3, 4.

☐ Hamza won second place.

☐ Sana showed him pictures of bridges.

☐ Hamza built a red bridge.

☐ The bridge broke during the test.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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The Bridge That Fell: words and writing

Name _____ Date _____

1 Match each word to its meaning. Draw a line.

scattered	○	○ spread out in many directions
giggled	○	○ laughed in a silly way
rebuilt	○	○ built again

2 Write your answer in a full sentence.

What did Hamza write on his poster? Why do you think he chose those words?

3 Draw your favorite part of the story.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: The Bridge That Fell

1 Circle the best answer

1. a) the middle was weak
2. c) she asked where it broke
3. b) mistakes can teach us

2 Order of events

Numbers as printed, top to bottom: 4, 3, 1, 2

1. Hamza built a red bridge.
2. The bridge broke during the test.
3. Sana showed him pictures of bridges.
4. Hamza won second place.

3 Word meanings

scattered: spread out in many directions

giggled: laughed in a silly way

rebuilt: built again

4 Written answer (sample)

He wrote that his first bridge failed and that it taught him something. He wanted to show that a mistake helped him learn and do better.

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