5TH GRADE READING · FICTION

The Robot Contest

Name _____ Date _____

Fiction | 200 words | Comparing characters

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

1 Maya and Jonah had been best friends since kindergarten, but building a robot together was turning out to be harder than either of them **expected.** The Regional Robot Challenge was only three days away, and their robot still could not pick up a single block.

2 Maya liked to plan. She filled her notebook with neat drawings and lists, and she wanted to test every part before moving on. Jonah liked to build. He grabbed parts, snapped them together and figured things out as he went. Each of them thought the other was doing it wrong.

3 On Wednesday night, the arm fell off for the fourth time. Jonah threw down his screwdriver. "Your plans take forever!" Maya crossed her arms. "Your guessing breaks everything!" They sat in silence until Maya's little brother wandered in, picked up her notebook and asked, "Why don't you just build her drawing?"

4 Maya and Jonah looked at each other. Maya's drawing showed a **gripper** with two curved fingers, and Jonah knew exactly how to make it work. By bedtime, the robot was lifting blocks **smoothly.** On Saturday, it finished second out of twenty teams. "Next year," Jonah said, "you draw, and I build." Maya grinned. "Deal."

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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The Robot Contest: questions

Name _____ Date _____

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

1 Circle the best answer

1. How is Maya different from Jonah?

(a) she likes to guess (b) she dislikes robots (c) she likes to plan first

2. Who gave them the idea that helped?

(a) their teacher (b) Maya's little brother (c) another team

3. What is the theme of the story?

(a) robots are too hard (b) always work alone (c) we do best together

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

- [ ] The robot could not pick up blocks.
- [ ] Maya's brother asked a question.
- [ ] The robot finished second.
- [ ] The arm fell off for the fourth time.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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The Robot Contest: words and writing

Name _____ Date _____

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

expected ○	○ easily, without stopping
gripper ○	○ the part of a robot that holds things
smoothly ○	○ thought something would happen

2 Write your answer in a full sentence.

Compare Maya and Jonah. How did their differences help them in the end?

_____

_____

_____

_____

3 Draw your favorite part of the story.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: The Robot Contest

1 Circle the best answer

1. c) she likes to plan first
2. b) Maya's little brother
3. c) we do best together

2 Order of events

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

1. The robot could not pick up blocks.
2. The arm fell off for the fourth time.
3. Maya's brother asked a question.
4. The robot finished second.

3 Word meanings

expected: thought something would happen

gripper: the part of a robot that holds things

smoothly: easily, without stopping

4 Written answer (sample)

Maya likes to plan and Jonah likes to build. When Jonah built Maya's drawing, they used both strengths, and the robot worked.

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