

Florida B.E.S.T.



PLOT

Level: **M** Characters, Setting, & Events Name: _____ Date: _____
Willow and the Powerful Book

Willow Clarke went to school on Thursday, and she had a wonderful day. She got to do all of her favorite things, like read books about animals and write stories about fun adventures in unexplored lands. The best part of the day was when her teacher, Mrs. Hutchinson, read her third-grade class a new chapter from a book about a majestic horse. Willow could imagine herself riding through the fields with the wind in her hair. The smell of daisies and freedom permeated Willow's daydreams.

After school, Willow started walking toward the public library. She went to the library every day after school to scour the stacks, mesmerized by every cover. She loved to run her finger along every spine, observing books about scientists, pirates, explorers, and birds. Any book was good to her, as long as she could learn something from it. She had read 187 books that school year already, and it was only December.

When she opened the library door, however, things were different. Willow spotted one book on display that glistened. Like a magnet, Willow was drawn to it. The shiny and perfect book had a cover that was blue with turquoise swirls and golden diamonds, and the spine was covered in a rare and delicate leather. Instead of looking at more books, she brought the one straight to the checkout counter because she wanted to bring this treasure home with her.



A new librarian who was wearing a gray sweater angrily glared at Willow with dark eyes as she quickly snatched it behind her back.

I never worked at the library, so Willow figured out what was happening. I bring them back in good condition.

Clark, D. T. 1

together. The reporter said that Rosa Parks was riding the bus in the back, but she refused to give up her seat for white people, justice, and equality for all.

Characters, Setting, & Events Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated.

1. What do Willow's actions show about her?

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ined
hetic

re story helped you answer the question above?
 "me," said Willow. "Yesterday, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat, and today, I refuse to give up this book. This is for all people, and I have the freedom to be here, read, and learn as anyone else."

Characters, Setting, & Events

4. Explain how the time period of this story contributes to the plot.

The story takes place during the Civil Rights Movement when African Americans were discriminated against. They did not have equal rights. This is important to the plot because Willow faces discrimination when the librarian refuses to check out a book to her. She is also inspired by Rosa Parks to stand up for her rights.

5. How is Willow's problem similar to Rosa Parks'?

a. Both Willow and Rosa Parks are treated unfairly.
 b. Both Willow and Rosa Parks are not allowed to sit in the front of the bus.
 c. Both Willow and Rosa Parks are not allowed to enter the library.
 d. Both Willow and Rosa Parks are being discriminated against because of their skin color.

6. Describe two events that lead up to Willow standing up to the librarian. Use details from the story to support your answer.

1. Willow saw a sign at a deli that said "No coloreds", which made her angry.
 2. Willow heard about Rosa Parks, who refused to give up her seat to a white person on a bus.

7. How was the librarian's behavior different from the one in the story above?

ho was wearing a gray sweater buttoned all the way up to the top and glared at Willow with dark eyes and a stiff face."

8. How is the librarian's behavior different from the one in the story above?

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nding

9. What are the two main settings of the story?

Willow's home is ordinary and comfortable.
 Willow's home is boring and Willow's home is welcoming.



PLOT: CHARACTERS, SETTING, EVENTS, PLOT

4th & 5th grade

Table of Contents

*This product includes 12 Lexile[®] leveled stories in the 4th-5th Grade Florida B.E.S.T. Text Complexity Band (the range for 4th-5th grade is 740L-1010L).

- Anchor Chart/Journal Pages for Plot

Stories

1. Let's Play Lava - 740L
2. A Perfect Snow Day - 740L
3. The History Trip - 780L
4. Moving Day - 790L
5. A Reading Buddy - 810L
6. Not Ready - 870L
7. The Vikings Are Coming - 940L
8. The Organized Pixie - 970L
9. The Sky Dance Festival
10. Phone Calls from Outer Space

Test

- The Housewarming Ceremony - 820L
- Willow and the Powerful Book - 830L



ABOUT LEXILE LEVELS



MagiCore is a certified Lexile® Partner. These texts are officially measured and approved by Lexile and MetaMetrics® to ensure appropriate rigor and differentiation for students.

The Lexile Framework® for Reading measures are scientific, quantitative text levels. When the Lexile of a text is measured, specific, measurable attributes of the text are considered, including, but not limited to, word frequency, sentence length, and text cohesion. These are difficult attributes for humans to evaluate, so a computer measures them.

Florida B.E.S.T. uses Lexile level bands as one measure of text complexity. Text complexity ranges ensure students are college and career ready by the end of 12th grade. Lexile measures help educators scaffold and differentiate instruction as well as monitor reading growth.

| Grade Band | Lexile® Bands Aligned to Florida B.E.S.T. Expectations |
|------------|--|
| K-1 | N/A |
| 2-3 | 420L-820L |
| 4-5 | 740L-1010L |
| 6-8 | 1185L-1385L |

Keep in mind when using any leveled text that many students will need scaffolding and support to reach text at the high end of their grade band. According to Appendix A of the Florida B.E.S.T. Standards, "It is important to recognize that scaffolding often is entirely appropriate. The expectation that scaffolding will occur with particularly challenging texts is built into the Standards' grade-by-grade text complexity expectations, for example. The general movement, however, should be toward decreasing scaffolding and increasing independence both within and across the text complexity bands defined in the Standards."



Characters, Setting, & Events
Answer the following questions
What do Yara's actions

- a. Yara is helpful.
- b. Yara is hopeful.
- c. Yara is sensible.
- d. Yara is mischievous.

What detail from
"Yara (with

2. Read this sent
"Yara! You know

What does th

- a. Rebec
- b. Rebe
- c. Rebe
- d. Rebe

3. Why is

- a. Th
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- d. Th

The Valley Leader: (pointing
mere minutes away, which
grant a wish. Who will it be
(In the crowd, Rebeca pi

Rebeca: I'm so nervous!

Yara: I don't want to ad

The Valley Leader: Ev

All Characters (Except
the Heavens to Earth

The Sky: This is it. I

(The Sky descends

The Sky: Yara of th

Yara: (shocked) Ya

(Yara and The Sky
finished, The Sky

The Sky: Now, n

Yara: (taking a
chance to walk

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The Sky: Yara

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Yara: That
including The
course.

THE END

Rebeca: Only two more sleeps until

Mama: I know, my darling. You mus

Yara: Of course she's excited. She

Rebeca: Don't be jealous, Yara. Ya

Mama: (gently) Now, now, Rebec

The Sky might just pick her this
(The Sky is visible outside the

The Sky: Once every year, the
All of the villagers come toge

dance with a villager of my c
(Back in the kitchen, the far

Mama: What will your wish

Rebeca: I'll wish for a plea

Mama: (smiles) What ab

Yara: What's the point?

Mama: You should be pr

Yara: (thinking for a m

(The Sky watches fr

The Sky: Most years
different.

SCENE THREE: TH

(It's the day of th

arrives, the Valley

The Valley Leader: Attention, attention, my

(Everyone stops singing and dancing.)

Play

Characters, Setting, & Events

Name: _____

Date: _____

The Sky Dance Festival

Characters: The Sky, Yara, Rebeca, Mama, The Valley Leader

SCENE 1: THE SUN-KISSED VALLEY, MORNING

(Yara, Rebeca, and Mama are working in the fields of the Sun-Kissed Valley. They're planting seeds, picking vegetables, and chatting. The Sky looks down on them from above.)

The Sky: It's a great and terrible thing, being The Sky. I get to see everything that happens down on Earth- beautiful things like babies being born and people falling in love, but also awful things like wars and famines. I watch it all unfold from my place up here, the best seat in the theatre.

(In the fields, Yara sneaks a carrot and bites into it.)

Rebeca: Yara! You know that you're not meant to do that!

Mama: Do what?

Yara (with a mouth full of carrot): Nothing, Mama.

Mama: You stole a carrot again, didn't you? How many times do I have to tell you... Farmer Paul counts the harvest carefully! He'll know if anything has been stolen.

Rebeca: I told you!

Mama: Yara, you must start being sensible. The festival is in two days. Don't you want to get your chance?

Yara: I've given up. I don't think my chance will ever come.

(The scene goes back up to The Sky, watching from above.)

The Sky: One of the frustrating things about being The Sky is not being able to do anything. I sit up here, day after night, and all I can do is watch. Sometimes I long for more. That's why the Sky Dance Festival is my favorite day of the year.

SCENE 2: INSIDE THE COTTAGE, EVENING

(Yara, Rebeca, and Mama are preparing vegetables for dinner.)



Characters, Setting, & Events

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated.

1. What do Willow's actions show about her?

- a. Willow is friendly.
- b. Willow is cautious.
- c. Willow is determined.
- d. Willow is sympathetic.

What detail from the story helped you answer the question?

"This book is for me", said Willow "Yesterday, Rosa Parks stood up for her seat on the bus, at a public library for all people and learn just as much as

2. Read this sentence from the story.

"Willow noticed a new librarian who was wearing a gray sweater buttoned all the way up to her chin. The librarian angrily glared at her behind the counter."

What does this sentence show you about the librarian?

- a. The librarian is supportive.
- b. The librarian is thoughtful.
- c. The librarian is judgmental.
- d. The librarian is understanding.

3. Which statement **best** compares the library to Willow's school?

- a. The library is inspiring, and Willow loves to read.
- b. The library is vast, and Willow has many books.
- c. The library is welcoming, and Willow likes to go there.
- d. The library is unhospitable, and Willow doesn't like to go there.

Characters, Setting, & Events

4. Explain how the time period of this story contributes to the plot.

This story takes place during the Civil Rights Movement when African Americans were discriminated against. They did not have equal rights. This is important to the plot because Willow faces discrimination when the librarian refuses to check out a book to her. She is also inspired by Rosa Parks to stand up for her rights.

5. How is Willow's problem similar to Rosa Parks?

- a. Both Willow and Rosa Parks are treated unfairly by a librarian.
- b. Both Willow and Rosa Parks are not allowed to ride in the front of the bus.
- c. Both Willow and Rosa Parks are not allowed to check out books at the library.
- d. Both Willow and Rosa Parks are being discriminated against because of their color of their skin.

6. Describe two events that lead up to Willow standing up to the librarian. Use at least two details from the story to support your answer.

1. Willow saw a sign at a deli that said "No coloreds", which angered her.
2. Willow heard about Rosa Parks, who refused to give up her seat to a white person on a bus.

That night, they ate supper and then watched the news together. The reporter said that something incredible had happened that day. A woman named Rosa Parks was riding the bus and was told to give her seat up to a white person and sit in the back, but she refused to give up her seat, and she was arrested. Rosa declared freedom, justice, and equality for

When she got to the counter, Willow noticed a new librarian who was wearing a gray sweater buttoned all the way up to her chin. The librarian angrily glared at her behind the counter.

Willow and the Powerful Book

Willow went to school on Thursday, and she had a wonderful day. She got to do projects and books about animals and write stories about fun things. The best part of the day was when her teacher, Mrs. Green, read a story from a book about a majestic horse. Willow had a book about a horse in her bag, and she had a book about a horse in her bag. Willow had a book about a horse in her bag, and she had a book about a horse in her bag.

Willow went to the library every day. She loved to run her fingers over the spines of the books. She had read 187 books from it. She had read 187 books from it. She had read 187 books from it.



Characters, Set
4. Which detail

- a. "You stole a carrot."
- b. "One of the villagers."
- c. "Yara, you've been chosen to dance with The Sky three times now, and she's only two minutes away, which is when The Sky will descend from above and choose one villager to grant a wish. Who will it be?"
- d. "Of course she's excited. She's been chosen to dance with The Sky three times now, and she's only two minutes away, which is when The Sky will descend from above and choose one villager to grant a wish. Who will it be?"

5. What happens

- a. The Sky chooses Yara.
- b. The Sky chooses Yara.
- c. The Sky chooses Yara.
- d. Yara shocks the villagers.

6. What is Yara's wish

Yara's wish is to see everything that happens down on Earth- beautiful things like babies being born and people falling in love, but also awful things like wars and famines. I watch it all unfold from my place up here, the best seat in the theatre.

"I wish to swap places with you for one year. I will be able to walk amongst the people and experience Earth. We'll swap back again at the end of the year."

Characters, Set
Answer the following questions.

- a. Yara is excited.
- b. Yara is nervous.
- c. Yara is happy.
- d. Yara is sad.

What does Yara say?

2. Read

"Yara"

What

- a. Rebecca is obedient.
- b. Rebecca is courteous.
- c. Rebecca is understanding.
- d. Rebecca is knowledgeable.

3. Why is the setting of the play important to the plot? (Choose all that apply.)

- a. This story takes place before and during the Sky Dance Festival, which honors The Sky.
- b. This story takes place in the Sun-Kissed Valley where The Sky watches over everything.
- c. This story takes place inside Yara, Rebecca, and Mama's cottage while they are discussing the festival.
- d. This story takes place over the course of a year when Rebecca works to be chosen to dance with The Sky at the festival.

The Valley Leader: (pointing to The Sky) As you can see, The Sky is starting to turn pink mere minutes away, which is when The Sky will descend from above and choose one villager to grant a wish. Who will it be?

(In the crowd, Rebeca pinches Yara's arm nervously.)

Rebeca: I'm so nervous!

Yara: I don't want to admit it, but so am I.

The Valley Leader: Everyone, please recite our Sky Dance Chant to call The Sky down!

All Characters (Except The Sky): The Sky, The Sky, our friend up high. The time is nigh, the Heavens to Earth, you must now fly!

The Sky: This is it. I've made my choice.

(The Sky descends to join the villagers in the Sun-Kissed Valley. After a moment's pause)

The Sky: Yara of the Sun-Kissed Valley, will you be my dance partner today?

Yara: (shocked) Yes. Yes! Of course!

(Yara and The Sky perform a beautiful dance as the rest of the villagers watch with amazement. The Sky holds Yara's hand.)

The Sky: Now, my dear child, what will your wish be?

Yara: (taking a deep breath) I wish to swap places with you for one year. I will be able to walk amongst the people and experience Earth. We'll swap back again at the end of the year.

(The characters gasp in disbelief.)

The Sky: Yara, this is truly the most beautiful gift. In all the centuries I've spent up here, I had a chance to actually be a part of it all. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you!

(Yara ascends up to where The Sky used to sit and becomes a brilliant shade of pink.)

Yara: That's the story of how I became The Sky for a year. I get to see everything that happens down on Earth- beautiful things like babies being born and people falling in love, but also awful things like wars and famines. I watch it all unfold from my place up here, the best seat in the theatre.

THE END

Rebeca: Only two more sleeps until the festival, Mama!

Mama: I know, my darling. You must be excited.

Yara: Of course she's excited. She's been chosen to dance with The Sky three times now, and she's only two minutes away, which is when The Sky will descend from above and choose one villager to grant a wish. Who will it be?

Rebeca: Don't be jealous, Yara. You could have had your chance, but you're just not well-behaved enough.

Mama: (gently) Now, now, Rebeca. I'm sure that Yara's time will come. She just needs to stay out of trouble, and The Sky might just pick her this year.
(The Sky is visible outside the cottage window.)

The Sky: Once every year, there's a festival in the Sun-Kissed Valley in my honor. They call it the Sky Dance Festival. All of the villagers come together and perform beautiful dances as a gift to me. In the end, I descend to Earth to dance with a villager of my choice, and that villager gets to make one wish that I grant.

(Back in the kitchen, the family has sat down with their vegetable stew.)

Mama: What will you wish for this year, Rebeca, if The Sky chooses you again?

Rebeca: I'll wish for...

Mama: (smiles)

Yara: What's that?

Mama: You should be happy.

Yara: (thinking)

(The Sky watches from above.)

The Sky: Most different.

SCENE THREE:
(It's the day of the festival, and the villagers are gathered in the Sun-Kissed Valley.)

The Valley Leader:
(Everyone stops to watch.)

Play

Characters, Setting, & Events

Name: _____

The Sky Dance Festival

Characters: The Sky, Yara, Rebeca, Mama, The Valley Leader

SCENE 1: THE SUN-KISSED VALLEY, MORNING

(Yara, Rebeca, and Mama are working in the fields of the Sun-Kissed Valley. They're planting vegetables, and chatting. The Sky looks down on them from above.)

The Sky: It's a great and terrible thing, being The Sky. I get to see everything that happens down on Earth- beautiful things like babies being born and people falling in love, but also awful things like wars and famines. I watch it all unfold from my place up here, the best seat in the theatre.

(In the fields, Yara sneaks a carrot and bites into it.)

Rebeca: Yara! You know that you're not meant to do that!

Mama: Do what?

Yara: (with a mouth full of carrot) Nothing, Mama.

Mama: You stole a carrot again, didn't you? How many times do I have to tell you... Farmer care! He'll know if anything has been stolen.

Rebeca: I told you!

Mama: Yara, you must start being sensible. The festival is in two days. Don't you want to get ready?

Yara: I've given up. I don't think my chance will ever come.

(The scene goes back up to The Sky, watching from above.)

The Sky: One of the frustrating things about being The Sky is not being able to do anything, at night, and all I can do is watch. Sometimes I long for more. That's why the Sky Dance Festival is my favorite day of the year.

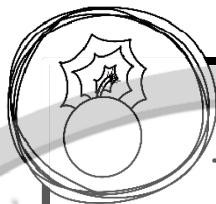
SCENE 2: INSIDE THE COTTAGE, EVENING

(Yara, Rebeca, and Mama are preparing vegetables for dinner.)



Plot

Many stories have plots like a roller coaster. The setting, events, conflict, and character development contribute to the plot.



CLIMAX

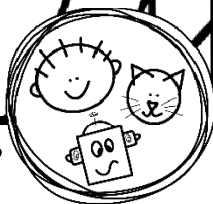
The most exciting part!



Increase suspense.

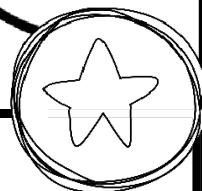
Falling action

Develop the characters and events.



Resolution

The problem is solved.



Beginning

Introduce the character. Describe the setting. Hint at the problem.

Let's Play Lava

It was a cloudy day as best friends Phil Sanders and Daniel Horshaw played on the nearby playground. They gleefully swung from the monkey bars.

"I bet I can swing across faster than you!" Phil exclaimed.

"No way! I'm way faster than you!" Daniel shouted back.

Phil grabbed the bars and swung across. He was fast, but Daniel had been a bit faster on his turn.

"I need to warm up first," grumbled Phil, annoyed that he had lost. "Let's play 'Lava' now."

Daniel happily agreed. The boys pretended that the ground was lava, and they could only move around on the playground. To make it more exciting, they pretended that there was a monster lurking within the lava.

The boys ran around the playground, swinging from the bars and going down the slides. As Daniel slid down the slide, he couldn't stop in time and had to shove his foot into the sand. He pretended to scream from the burning lava, but then something strange began to happen. The sand began to bubble!

"Phil, what's going on?" Daniel yelled as he crawled his way back up the slide. "The sand is bubbling like



"That's because we're playing 'Lava', duh," Phil said as he stretched across the top of the monkey bars with his face turned to the sky.

"No, it's *really* bubbling. Look!" Daniel yelled.

Phil groaned as he pulled himself up and turned to look, horrified at what he saw. The bubbling sand had turned red and lava-like. Just then, a lava glob monster appeared! The boys screamed as they ran to the highest section of the playground for safety. The glob monster stood tall as lava continuously poured down its sides.

"How is that possible when we were just pretending?" Daniel whimpered.

"I don't know, but we have to get out of here now," Phil replied.

The boys walked down and tried to step off of the lowest platform, but the lava monster appeared in front of them. It gurgled out lava, and the boys stepped back, terrified.

"It won't be as easy as we thought," Daniel grumbled, feeling defeated. "How are we supposed to leave?"

"Maybe we should figure out what the monster can do," responded Phil.

Daniel agreed with Phil's idea, so they set out for the first time. The boys ran frantically across the playground as the lava monster chased them. It went after Daniel first, but he was too fast, so the monster went after Phil. Phil screamed as he, unfortunately, got caught on the monkey bars!

"Swing faster!" Daniel hysterically warned Phil.

Phil swung as fast as he could, but the monster was getting closer. It reached him just as Phil hopped onto the platform on the other side. Phil scrambled away, watching the lava monster step away from the platform.

"Daniel, I don't think the monster can touch dry land," Phil shouted and then sighed a deep breath of relief.

The boys were happy that they had found the lava monster's weakness, but it didn't help their situation. Although the monster couldn't touch dry land, the kids couldn't touch the lava-sand, and they were still stuck. They would have to uncover another weakness.

"What if we throw rocks at it? Maybe the monster will get annoyed and leave," Daniel suggested.

They found some rocks scattered across the platforms, picked up several, and hurled them at the lava monster. The monster groaned as it tossed bits of lava back at the boys. They dodged the lava, but the platform wasn't so lucky. They watched as the lava burned through the wood.

"I think we made it angrier!" Phil screamed.

The boys dropped their rocks and dodged more lava bits. The monster continued to throw them at Phil and Daniel, causing them to jump like monkeys.

The platforms were getting harder to stand on with dozens of missing, burned-off sections. Daniel swung across the monkey bars. He was about to land right in a large hole, but Phil pulled him to safety.

"Thanks, Phil. You saved my life," Daniel sighed as the boys continued to escape the lava bits.

If they didn't escape soon, there wouldn't be anything to stand on! It was growing darker and colder out, like a storm was brewing.

Phil nearly fell off a slide as he scrambled back up. In the process, he accidentally spit on the ground. He was shocked to see the lava fizzle out where his spit had landed.

"Daniel, spit on the lava!" he hollered at his friend who was hopping around on a platform.

Daniel obliged and was ecstatic when a small section of lava fizzled out.

"You found its weakness, Phil!" said Daniel.

The boys spat at the lava as they jumped around. Although it was working, they didn't have nearly enough spit to dry out the lava monster. It gurgled out fresh lava whenever a section fizzled out. They knew the monster's weakness, but it would never want them to escape. With the playground quickly burning away, they would fall into the lava soon.

Just then, something cold and wet dropped onto Phil's cheek. He glanced up as more drops hit his eyes. The drops were also hitting Daniel. The boys cackled when they realized that it had begun to rain!

They glanced over at the lava monster as it shrieked. Lava fizzled out wherever raindrops landed. Then came a sudden downpour, which caused large sections of lava to evaporate.

"The lava monster can't keep up with the rain," Phil exclaimed.

They then noticed a narrow path leading to the grassy ground. It was their escape route! The boys jumped onto the dried-out lava and ran down the path.

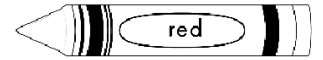
The boys sprang onto the grass with heavy thuds as they observed the lava monster continue fizzling away. It turned to the boys with a shriek, darting at them. Phil and Daniel scrambled to their feet and ran from the park, refusing to look back at the monster.

They had no idea how the lava monster was created, but they would investigate the park when it was safer.

Characters, Setting, & Events

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated.

1. What do Phil's actions show about him?



- a. Phil is realistic about things.
- b. Phil is anxious about new things.
- c. Phil is ingenious and comes up with new ideas.
- d. Phil is cowardly when faced with a new situation.

What detail from the story helped you answer the question above?

2. Read this sentence from the story.

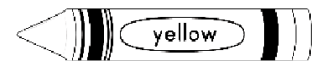


“‘What if we throw rocks at it? Maybe the monster will get annoyed and leave,’ Daniel suggested.”

What does this sentence show you about Daniel?

- a. Daniel is willing to take a risk.
- b. Daniel is overly cautious about things.
- c. Daniel does not think his ideas through.
- d. Daniel is practical and doesn't believe that the monster is real.

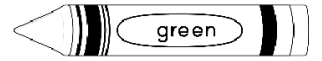
3. Why is the setting of the story important to the plot?



- a. Daniel and Phil are worried about an impending storm.
- b. Daniel and Phil are being imaginative while playing at the playground.
- c. Daniel and Phil are scared when they are transported to a different planet with monsters.
- d. Daniel and Phil are worried that their teacher will catch them playing a dangerous game at school.

Characters, Setting, & Events

4. Which detail below hints at a problem in the story?



- a. "Let's play 'Lava' now."
- b. "No way! I'm way faster than you!" Daniel shouted back."
- c. "He pretended to scream from the burning lava, but then something strange began to happen."
- d. "It was a cloudy day as best friends Phil Sanders and Daniel Horshaw played on the nearby playground."

5. Read the sentence from the story below.

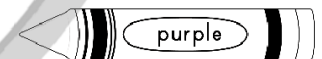


"What if we throw rocks at it? Maybe the monster will get annoyed and leave," Daniel suggested.

What happens as a result of Daniel's suggestion? (Choose all that apply.)

- a. Daniel and Phil defeat the lava monster.
- b. Daniel and Phil make the lava monster more angry.
- c. The lava monster starts throwing pieces of lava at the boys.
- d. Daniel and Phil startle the lava monster so that they can run away.

6. Describe two events that lead up to Phil and Daniel defeating the lava monster. Use at least two details from the story to support your answer.



TEST: The Housewarming Ceremony

Sudath was peering through his gate at the busy people unloading furniture from a vehicle. It looked like a new family had moved in right across from where they lived. "It is a bit noisy," muttered Sudath under his breath. "I wonder what they are like." Just then, a boy around his age came walking toward him. Sudath pretended that he was looking elsewhere to avoid conversation with the stranger.

"Hello," said the boy to Sudath, "I'm Malith Pujith. We moved in there a while ago." He pointed across the street. "Is your mom home? My mom would like to meet her."

"Oh, hi, I'm Sudath. It's nice to meet you. I'll convey the message to my mom," replied Sudath unexcitedly.

Malith thanked him politely and left. Later that day, Sudath's mom had exciting news to share after returning from meeting her new neighbors. "Mr. and Mrs. Pujith were so kind," she said. "They invited us to their housewarming ceremony this Thursday. In the meantime, they'd like Sudath to be Malith's friend and asked if it would be alright to send Malith here to play."

Sudath didn't seem very thrilled. He did not like the idea of sharing his toys with others, especially with someone he didn't know at all, but his mother insisted, so he had to comply.

The very next day, Malith came looking for Sudath and greeted Sudath's parents cheerfully as he waited for Sudath. After about ten minutes, Sudath returned with three toy cars, a puzzle, and his very favorite model of a helicopter. Malith was excited and grabbed the helicopter, pretending to fly while hovering it across the room and making sounds.

"You can try this car," said Sudath, trying to divert Malith's attention away from the helicopter.

"No, thanks, but I like this one," replied Malith, rotating its propellers quite fast.

"I don't think that's a good idea," interrupted Sudath, "because..." Before he could utter another word, there was a *click*, and the propellers hit the ground, breaking into a few pieces. There was an awkward silence before Sudath exclaimed, "You broke my helicopter!"

"I'm...I'm sorry," stammered Malith. "It was an accident."

"No, it wasn't. None of this would have happened if you had been careful," snapped Sudath. Malith threw a glance at Sudath and ran away.

When Sudath relayed the incident to his mother, she promised to buy him a new toy and encouraged him to forgive and be friendly to Malith again. "Tomorrow is the housewarming ceremony, and I do not want to see any enmity between the two of you," she warned.

A housewarming ceremony is performed when someone moves into a new residence. The closest family members and neighbors are invited over, and refreshments are served. A pot of milk is left to boil and overflow, which signifies the overflowing of health, wealth, and harmony.

When Malith saw Sudath during their housewarming ceremony, an awkwardness existed between them. Mrs. Pujith sensed this, and to put things right, she ordered Malith to serve oil cakes and milk rice to Sudath. Unable to disobey his mother, Malith slowly walked over to the table where the refreshments were kept and served some to Sudath. A sudden unexpected smile washed over Sudath's face, and Malith smiled in return. Soon, they were both seen chatting happily, and before they knew it, it was time to leave.

Mrs. Pujith called Sudath over and handed him a gift. "This is for being a good friend to Malith," she said, patting his head.

Sudath's mother was overwhelmed. "Well, you didn't have to," she said.

"Oh, that's fine. I'm glad that they're friends again, and I'm sorry about the helicopter," apologized Mrs. Pujith.

"Oh, don't worry about it," assured Sudath's mother. "Thank you for inviting us over. Have a good day." Off they all went.

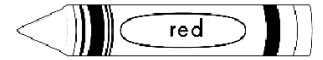
When Sudath unwrapped his gift box, a surprise awaited him. It was a battery-operated train set, complete with the stations, engines, and a miniature train. Sudath could even notice a little smoke when the train started moving, which was fascinating to watch. He couldn't believe his luck. Now, this had become his favorite toy ever. Sudath realized how worthwhile it was to share his belongings. Not only had he gained a new toy, but he had also gained a best friend.



Characters, Setting, & Events

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated.

1. What do Sudath's actions show about him?



- a. Sudath is outgoing.
- b. Sudath is unpleasant.
- c. Sudath likes to be on his own.
- d. Sudath is lonely and wants new friends.

What detail from the story helped you answer the question above?

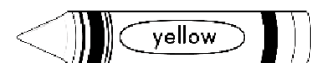
2. Read this sentence from the story.



“Hello,” said the boy to Sudath, “I’m Malith Pujith. We moved in there a while ago.”

What does this sentence show you about Malith? How is he different from Sudath? Use two details from the text to support your answer.

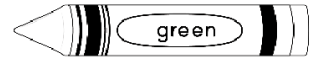
3. Why is the setting of the story important to the plot?



- a. This story takes place in a new house and a new school for Malith.
- b. This story takes place in the past when people had housewarming parties.
- c. This story takes place in the summertime when Malith and Sudath have ample time to play.
- d. This story takes place after Malith moved to Sudath's neighborhood. His family is having a housewarming party.

Characters, Setting, & Events

4. Which detail below hints at a problem in the story?



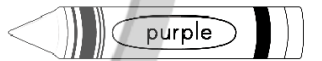
- a. "Just then, a boy around his age came walking toward him."
- b. "Later that day, Sudath's mom had exciting news to share after returning from meeting her new neighbors."
- c. "The very next day, Malith came looking for Sudath and greeted Sudath's parents cheerfully as he waited for Sudath."
- d. "Sudath didn't seem very thrilled. He did not like the idea of sharing his toys with others, especially with someone he didn't know at all..."

5. What happens as a result of Malith breaking Sudath's helicopter? (Choose all that apply.)



- a. Malith apologizes to Sudath.
- b. Sudath is irritated with Malith.
- c. Sudath refuses to go to the housewarming party.
- d. Sudath's mother promises to replace the helicopter.

6. Describe the events that occur at the housewarming party that lead to a change in Sudath. Use at least two details from the story to support your answer.



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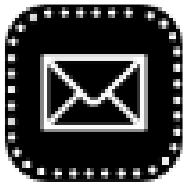
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