

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Central Message and Moral

Read the short story and answer each question.



The Paintbrush Plan

Lena loved art. She painted trees, dogs, boats, and even dancing turtles. Her little brother Max, however, was not so careful with art supplies. He liked to mix all the paints together and scribble over her work.

One day, Lena was working on a painting of a birthday party. It had a cake, balloons, and smiling kids. "Don't touch!" she told Max as she went to wash her hands.

Max peeked at the picture. "I'll help!" he said. He grabbed a brush and added big, purple clouds over the sky and green lines on the cake.

When Lena came back, she gasped. "Max! You ruined it!"

Max's smile dropped. "I wanted to make it better."

Lena crossed her arms. "It's not better. It's a mess."

That night, Lena thought about Max. He had only wanted to help. She had felt that way once when she was little too. Maybe there was a way to paint *together*.

The next morning, Lena gave Max a new piece of paper. "Let's make a plan before we paint," she said.

Max's eyes lit up. "A plan?"

"Yes," Lena smiled. "We'll choose what to paint, and where. That way, we both get to help."

They painted a robot zoo with silly hats and rainbow eyes. It was the best painting yet.



Name: _____

The Paintbrush Plan

1. Why was Lena upset when she saw her painting?

- A. Max tore the paper
- B. Max used all the paint
- C. Max painted over her work
- D. Max lost her brushes

2. What did Lena do to fix the problem with Max?

- A. She painted alone in her room
- B. She gave Max a timeout
- C. She made a painting plan with Max
- D. She threw away the paints

3. Fill in the blank:

Lena and Max made a _____ before they painted so they could work together.

4. How did Lena's feelings about Max change from the beginning to the end of the story?

5. What is the lesson or message in this story? Use details from the text to explain your thinking.



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: K

Lexile Level: 330L-480L

Grade Level: 2nd Grade, Beginning of the Year

Introducing the Text

"Today we are reading a story about two siblings who love art but don't always agree on how to make it. As we read, let's think about how the characters solve their problem and what lesson they learn by the end."

Vocabulary: scribble, gasp, ruined, plan, lit up

Discussion Questions Before Reading

1. What do you know about making art with someone else?
 2. Have you ever tried to help someone, but it didn't go as planned?
 3. What do you think makes a good team?
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Discussion Questions During Reading

1. What does Max do that upsets Lena?
 2. How does Lena react to her ruined painting?
 3. What idea does Lena come up with the next day?
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Discussion Questions After Reading

1. How did Lena and Max show they cared about each other?
 2. Why is making a plan important when working with others?
 3. What does this story teach us about teamwork or forgiveness?
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Activity Idea

Provide students with a large piece of paper and pair them up to create a shared drawing. Before they begin, have them make a "Paintbrush Plan" together by writing or drawing what each person will add. This reinforces problem-solving, planning, and cooperation in a creative, hands-on way.

