

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Character Response

Read the short story and answer each question.



The Flying Paper

Ellis sat by the window of his family's small apartment above the bakery. His fingers were smudged with pencil lead, and stacks of folded papers sat beside him. He was writing the second issue of *The Alley Times*, a neighborhood newspaper he had started himself.

It wasn't easy. Ellis was only nine, and he had to walk to the library to find stories, sketch drawings himself, and handwrite each copy. His dream was to be a real reporter one day. "If you want something done right, you have to do it yourself," his father always said.

The next morning, Ellis slipped the papers under doors and into mail slots along the alley. But just as he was heading home, a gust of wind blew the rest of the papers out of his arms. Pages scattered across the street.

"No!" he yelled, running to catch them.

He grabbed a few pages, but most were soaked by a puddle or flattened by a cartwheel. His shoulders drooped. All that work, ruined.

Then he spotted Mr. Grant, the print shop owner. "Trouble with your delivery?" Mr. Grant asked kindly. Ellis nodded.

"Come by after school," Mr. Grant said. "I might have an idea."

That afternoon, Mr. Grant showed Ellis how to use a small printing press. "It takes time to learn, but it's better than handwriting each one."

Ellis's eyes lit up. He had lost his papers—but found something better: a new way to share his voice.



Name: _____

The Campfire Plan

1. What challenge does Ellis face in the story?

- A. He can't think of any stories to write.
- B. His papers blow away and get ruined.
- C. He loses his notebook in the bakery.
- D. The library closes before he arrives.

2. How does Ellis respond to the problem?

- A. He gives up on the newspaper.
- B. He rewrites every page by hand again.
- C. He finds a faster way to print his papers.
- D. He blames his little sister.

3. Fill in the blank:

Ellis started a newspaper called *The* _____ *Times*.

4. How did Ellis show determination when something went wrong? Use details from the story to explain.

5. What does this story teach us about solving problems in creative ways?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: M

Lexile Level: 425L-575L

Grade Level: 2nd Grade, End of the Year

Introducing the Text

"In this historical fiction story, we'll meet Ellis, a boy from over 100 years ago who faces a problem with something he's worked very hard on. As we read, let's think about how he reacts to his challenge and how it helps him grow."

Vocabulary: reporter, printing press, scattered, determination, delivery

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you think it was like to live in a city over 100 years ago?
 2. What would it take to write and deliver your own newspaper?
 3. What does the word "determination" mean to you?
-

During Reading Discussion Questions

1. How does Ellis feel about his newspaper?
 2. What happens when he tries to deliver the papers?
 3. Who helps him, and how?
-

After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How does Ellis respond to a big setback?
 2. What does this story show about trying new solutions?
 3. Can you think of a time you had to find a new way to do something?
-

Activity Idea

Students can create their own one-page classroom newspaper. They'll each write a short article or draw a picture (e.g., "Playground News," "Class Pet Update"), then work together to create copies using a "printing station" (a simple copier or classroom scribe system). This brings the historical story to life while reinforcing collaboration and literacy.

