

# Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Retelling & Central Message

Read the short story and answer each question.



## Milo and the Missing Beads

Milo sat at his desk, stringing beads for his art class project. Each bead was a different color, and he had carefully planned a pattern to match his drawing of a rainbow. He was proud of how hard he had worked.

When it was time for lunch, Milo left his beads on his desk. But when he returned, **his beads were gone**. All that remained was a single red bead on the floor.

Milo's heart sank. "Why would someone take my work?" he whispered.

Instead of shouting or blaming anyone, Milo walked over to Ms. Lane, his teacher. "Someone took my beads," he said quietly. "I don't know who."

Ms. Lane nodded. "Let's talk to the class and see if someone made a mistake."

After hearing Milo's story, one student, Zara, raised her hand. "I thought they were extra beads," she said. "I used them for my project. I'm really sorry."

Milo looked at his empty string. Then he looked at Zara. "It's okay," he said. "Maybe we can work together and make something even better."

Zara smiled. "I'd like that."

By the end of class, the two had made a new rainbow—**this time with twice the creativity**.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Milo and the Missing Beads

1. Why was Milo upset after lunch?

- A. His art project was taken.
- B. His lunchbox was missing.
- C. He lost his backpack.
- D. His drawing was smudged.

2. How did Milo respond when he found out who took his beads?

- A. He yelled at Zara.
- B. He ignored her.
- C. He chose to forgive her and work together.
- D. He told the principal.

3. Fill in the blank:

Milo and Zara used their creativity to make a new \_\_\_\_\_.

4. What is the central message or lesson of the story? Use key details to explain how that message is shown.

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5. How did Milo's choices affect what happened at the end of the story?

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# Parent and Teacher Guide

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**Guide Reading Level:** M

**Lexile Level:** 425L-575L

**Grade Level:** 3rd Grade, Beginning of the Year

**Genre:** Realistic Fiction

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## Introducing the Text

*"Today's story is about a student who faces a challenge in art class and makes a surprising choice. As we read, we'll think about how the character's actions help us understand the message of the story. Let's also notice what the author includes to help us learn from the events."*

**Vocabulary:** pattern, project, whispered, creativity, forgive

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## Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever worked hard on something and had a problem come up? What happened?
  2. What are some ways people solve problems peacefully?
  3. What might a story with the title "Milo and the Missing Beads" be about?
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## During Reading Discussion Questions

1. How do you think Milo felt when he saw his beads were gone?
  2. Why do you think Milo chose to tell Ms. Lane instead of getting angry?
  3. What surprised you about how Milo handled the situation?
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## After Reading Discussion Questions

1. What is the central lesson Milo learns? What clues helped you figure it out?
  2. How did Milo's kindness and forgiveness change the ending of the story?  
Can you think of a time in your life when someone forgave you or you forgave someone?
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## Activity Idea

Have students create their own version of a "forgiveness art piece." Give them paper and drawing tools to design a picture that shows two characters working through a problem together. Then, they write one or two sentences explaining the lesson their drawing teaches, connecting it back to Milo and Zara's story.

