

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Character Actions & Feelings

Read the short story and answer each question.



Tessa and the Trail Map

Tessa gripped her trail map tightly as her class hiked through Pine Ridge Forest. Her teacher had given everyone a copy, but Tessa had studied it the most. She wanted to be chosen as the line leader on the way back.

As they reached the waterfall, everyone stopped to rest. The teacher stepped away to take a phone call, and the map in her backpack flew out and landed in the water.

"We need that map to find our way back!" someone cried.

Tessa took a deep breath. "I have mine," she said, stepping forward.

A few kids rolled their eyes. "You? You're always too quiet."

Tessa unfolded her map. "This way," she said, her voice stronger now. She pointed to a bend in the trail. The class followed her, and after several turns and steep hills, they reached the parking lot.

"Great work, Tessa," said her teacher, smiling. "You stayed calm and helped us when we needed it most."

Tessa blushed, but inside she felt proud. Maybe being quiet wasn't a weakness—it was her strength.



Name: _____

Tessa and the Trail Map

1. What does Tessa do to help her class?

- A. She finds a lost water bottle
- B. She gives directions using her trail map
- C. She fixes the teacher's phone
- D. She climbs a tree to look for the trail

2. How does Tessa change from the beginning to the end of the story?

- A. She becomes louder and sillier
- B. She learns how to draw maps
- C. She finds confidence in her quiet strength
- D. She decides to stop hiking forever

3. Fill in the blank:

Tessa stayed _____ and used her map to lead the class back safely.

4. How do Tessa's traits and actions help move the story forward?

5. Why do you think Tessa felt proud at the end of the story?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: M

Lexile Level: 425L-575L

Grade Level: 3rd Grade, Beginning of the Year

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Introducing the Text

"In today's story, we meet a girl named Tessa who goes on a class hike. As we read, we'll focus on how her personality and choices affect what happens in the story. Pay close attention to how her actions help solve a problem."

Vocabulary: trail, hiked, directions, quiet, confidence

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you know about hiking or reading maps?
 2. What makes someone a good leader?
 3. Have you ever felt unsure of yourself but helped anyway?
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. How do the other students react when Tessa offers to lead?
 2. What does Tessa do that helps solve the problem?
 3. How does her voice or behavior change during the hike?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. What character traits does Tessa show in this story?
 2. How do her actions affect the other characters and the outcome?
 3. What lesson can we learn from Tessa about quiet leadership?
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Activity Idea

Ask students to complete a "Character Ripple Chart." In the center, they draw Tessa. Around her, they write her key traits (e.g., prepared, calm, quiet, confident). In the outer ring, they write the ripple effects of her actions (e.g., led the class, solved the problem, gained respect). Discuss how one character's traits can change the whole story.

