

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Word Choice & Meaning

Read the short story and answer each question.



The Roller Coaster Decision

Lena stood at the foot of the tallest roller coaster in the amusement park. The track twisted like spaghetti high above her head.

"No way," she muttered, clutching her ticket. "That thing looks like it touches the sky."

Her best friend, Zane, bounced beside her. "It's going to be *awesome!* You'll love it once we're on."

Lena frowned. "Why do people like feeling like they're falling out of the sky?"

Zane shrugged. "It's not falling—it's flying."

Lena watched another car shoot down the hill, people screaming with their hands in the air. She felt her stomach twist. *I'm more of a feet-on-the-ground person,* she thought.

But Zane didn't tease her. "You don't have to go. I just want to ride it together."

That made Lena pause. She looked at the track again. It still scared her—but not as much as disappointing her best friend.

"Okay," she said softly. "Let's fly."

Later, when the ride stopped, Lena stumbled off with wind-blown hair and a wild grin.

"Again?" Zane asked.

Lena shook her head, laughing. "Not today. But I get why you love it."



Name: _____

The Roller Coaster Decision

1. How does Lena feel about the roller coaster at the beginning of the story?

- A. She is excited and eager
- B. She doesn't care about it
- C. She is afraid and unsure
- D. She wants to ride it alone

2. What helps Lena change her mind about riding the roller coaster?

- A. The ride breaks down and she gets curious
- B. Zane dares her to ride it
- C. She realizes she doesn't want to disappoint her friend
- D. She watches a video of someone else riding it

3. Fill in the blank:

Lena compares the twisting roller coaster track to a bowl of _____.

4. How is Lena's point of view different from Zane's at the beginning of the story? What does each one believe about roller coasters?

5. Do you agree more with Lena or Zane? Why? Explain your own point of view and how it compares to theirs.



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: N

Lexile Level: 530L-680L

Grade Level: 3rd Grade, Beginning of the Year

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Introducing the Text

"In this story, we'll explore how two characters—Lena and Zane—see the same thing in very different ways. As we read, we'll pay attention to **their points of view** and compare those to how *you* would feel in the same situation."

Vocabulary: roller coaster, twisted, disappointment, brave, point of view

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever disagreed with a friend about something fun or scary?
 2. What's your opinion on roller coasters?
 3. What does it mean to "see something from someone else's point of view"?
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What are Lena's thoughts as she watches the ride?
 2. How does Zane support her even though they feel differently?
 3. What moment shows Lena changing her perspective?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How did Lena's experience affect the way she saw roller coasters?
 2. How is your point of view similar or different from Lena's?
 3. Why is it helpful to recognize how someone else sees a situation?
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Activity Idea

Create a "**Point of View T-Chart.**" On one side, students list Lena's thoughts and feelings before and after the ride. On the other side, they write their *own* thoughts about roller coasters. Have them compare and discuss how reading about Lena's point of view might help them understand someone else better—even if they don't agree.

