

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Ask & Answer Questions

Read the short story and answer each question.



The Forest Debate

Naomi stood on the stage in the school auditorium, her hands shaking. She had never spoken in front of so many people before—but today, she had something important to say.

Her school was holding a debate: **Should the city build new stores on the edge of Pinewood Forest, or protect the forest and leave it untouched?** Naomi was on the team that wanted to protect the forest.

When it was her turn, Naomi stepped up to the microphone. "I know stores are helpful," she began, "but Pinewood Forest is home to animals, trees, and clean air. It's where we go to hike, learn about nature, and take a break from busy streets. Once it's gone, we can't get it back."

After the debate, students voted. It was close, but Naomi's team won.

Later that day, her class went outside for recess. As Naomi passed the big oak tree by the fence, a classmate said, "I used to think the stores were a good idea, but now I get it."

Naomi smiled. She had been nervous, but she knew she had made a difference—with her voice and her heart.



Name: _____

The Forest Debate

1. What was the topic of the school debate?

- A. Whether to cut down all the trees
- B. Whether to add more school rules
- C. Whether to build stores near Pinewood Forest
- D. Whether to plant new flowers

2. Why did Naomi want to protect the forest?

- A. She wanted to play soccer in it.
- B. It was home to animals and clean air.
- C. It had a hidden treasure.
- D. Her parents told her to.

3. Fill in the blank:

Naomi's class voted after the _____.

4. What did Naomi say during the debate that helped her team win? Use text evidence to support your answer.

5. How did Naomi feel before and after the debate? What helped her feel more confident?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: P

Lexile Level: 645L-795L

Grade Level: 3rd Grade, End of the Year

Genre: Fantasy / Mystery

Introducing the Text

"In today's story, we'll meet a student who speaks up during a school debate. As we read, we'll ask and answer questions that help us understand her thoughts and feelings, and we'll look for parts of the text that explain how she made her argument."

Vocabulary: debate, auditorium, protect, nature, confident

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What is a debate, and have you ever been part of one?
 2. Why might people want to build stores near a forest?
 3. What are some reasons a forest might be worth protecting?
-

During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What argument does Naomi give to protect the forest?
 2. How do we know she is nervous?
 3. What changes after she speaks?
-

After Reading Discussion Questions

1. What helped Naomi find her courage to speak up?
 2. What does the story teach us about using our voices for something we care about?
 3. Why is it important to find text evidence to support our answers?
-

Activity Idea

Invite students to hold a mini-classroom debate on a fun topic (e.g., recess vs. indoor games). Assign sides, let them write short speeches with supporting reasons, and then ask partners to listen carefully and **ask questions** using sentence starters like, "Why do you think...?" or "Where in the text did it say...?" This models both public speaking and RI.3.1 thinking.

