

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Character Actions & Feelings

Read the short story and answer each question.



The Bridge Between Us

Noah didn't like change. So when his mom told him they were moving from their small town to a busy city, he shut himself in his room.

"It'll be an adventure," she said. But to Noah, it felt like everything he loved—his friends, his school, his favorite tree—was being left behind.

At his new school, Noah didn't speak much. The other kids seemed louder, faster, like they belonged in a way he didn't. At recess, he sat on a bench and sketched pictures of his old town.

One afternoon, a classmate named Elijah walked by and peeked at his sketchpad. "That tree looks awesome," he said. "Wanna see mine?"

To Noah's surprise, Elijah also had a sketchpad—full of city buildings, bridges, and train tracks.

"Want to draw something together?" Elijah asked.

Noah paused, then nodded. They spent the afternoon sketching a picture: a tree from Noah's hometown growing beside a giant city bridge.

From that day forward, Noah felt a little less alone. Each drawing they created built something new—a friendship, a sense of place, a bridge between what was and what could be.



Name: _____

The Bridge Between Us

1. What is Noah's biggest challenge at the beginning of the story?

- A. He doesn't like schoolwork
- B. He misses his dog
- C. He struggles with moving to a new place
- D. He loses his sketchpad

2. How do Noah's actions affect the sequence of events?

- A. He avoids everyone and gets in trouble
- B. He opens up through art and starts a friendship
- C. He wins an art contest
- D. He convinces his mom to move back

3. Fill in the blank:

Noah and Elijah drew a picture of a tree and a _____ together.

4. How does Noah change from the beginning to the end of the story? What causes this change?

5. What traits do Noah and Elijah show, and how do those traits move the story forward?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: P

Lexile Level: 645L-795L

Grade Level: 3rd Grade, End of the Year

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Introducing the Text

"In today's story, we'll read about a boy named Noah who feels out of place after a big change. As you read, notice how his actions and feelings change over time—and how his choices impact what happens next in the story."

Vocabulary: sketchpad, bridge, loneliness, change, friendship

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. How do you feel when something big in your life changes?
 2. What do you think makes someone feel like they belong?
 3. Have you ever used art or creativity to express feelings?
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. Why does Noah keep to himself at first?
 2. How does Elijah help change the direction of the story?
 3. What do their drawings represent?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. What does the story teach about friendship and change?
 2. How did the characters' actions create a "bridge" between them?
 3. What would have happened if Noah never shared his drawing?
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Activity Idea

Invite students to create a "**Bridge Drawing**" with a partner. Each person draws something that represents a part of their own identity (e.g., hometown, interests, favorite memories). Then, they connect their drawings with a bridge and write a few sentences about how friendship can connect people with different backgrounds—just like Noah and Elijah.

