

# Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Quote Accurately

Read the short story and answer each question.



## The Final Piece

Carla stared at the last puzzle piece sitting on her desk. She hadn't touched the puzzle in weeks, but it still bothered her. The picture was nearly complete—bright balloons rising above a city skyline—but the top corner was blank, waiting.

Her mom had bought the puzzle after the move. "Something to keep your hands busy," she'd said, handing it to Carla in the middle of their half-unpacked living room. But Carla hadn't wanted to stay busy. She'd wanted to go back to Maple Creek, where her friends lived and where she wasn't "the new girl."

At school, Carla kept mostly to herself. She nodded politely when classmates spoke to her, but didn't join their games or conversations. She told herself it was easier not to try. That way, nothing could go wrong.

One rainy afternoon, Carla's teacher, Mr. Lopez, stopped by her desk. "We're starting a mural project next week. You're great with detail—want to help sketch the outlines?" Carla blinked. "I—I guess." She hadn't drawn in a while.

That evening, Carla picked up the puzzle piece. She turned it in her hand slowly, then pressed it into place. The balloons in the picture now floated freely.



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

## The Final Piece

**1. What does the puzzle symbolize in the story?**

- A. Her favorite game from school
- B. Her unfinished art project
- C. Her feelings about adjusting to a new place
- D. The balloons she sees in the sky

**2. Why does Carla agree to help with the mural?**

- A. She wants to leave class early
- B. She misses her friends
- C. She is starting to open up to others
- D. She wants to win a prize

**3. Fill in the blank:**

Carla doesn't want to try making friends because she says it's "easier not to try." This shows she is trying to protect herself from \_\_\_\_\_.

**4. What are two pieces of evidence from the story that show Carla is beginning to change by the end?**

---

---

---

**5. What can you infer about how Carla feels after placing the final puzzle piece? Use details from the story to support your answer.**

---

---

---



# Parent and Teacher Guide

---

**Guide Reading Level:** S

**Lexile Level:** 850L-1000L

**Grade Level:** 5th Grade, Beginning of the Year

**Genre:** Realistic Fiction

---

## Introducing the Text

*“Today we’ll read a story about a girl adjusting to a new place and working through her feelings. As you read, look for clues about how she changes over time. You’ll also practice using quotes from the text to support your thinking.”*

**Vocabulary:** symbolize, politely, sketch, internal, adjusting

---

## Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever had to start over in a new place or situation?
  2. What are some ways people protect themselves when they feel nervous?
  3. What might a puzzle piece represent in a story?
- 

## During Reading Discussion Questions

1. Why hasn’t Carla finished the puzzle?
  2. What does Mr. Lopez notice about Carla?
  3. What happens when Carla agrees to sketch for the mural?
- 

## After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How do we know Carla is starting to feel differently by the end?
  2. What specific lines or moments show she’s changing?
  3. How can placing a puzzle piece be more than just finishing a game?
- 

## Activity Idea

Invite students to write a “puzzle piece journal entry” from Carla’s point of view the night after she says yes to the mural project. They must include one quote from the story and one inferred thought that’s not directly stated in the text.

