Name: _____ Date: _____

Reading Comprehension: The Cookie Bridge

Grade 4 | Reading a story: details, inferences and theme

Read the story. Then answer the questions on the next page.

The Cookie Bridge

Every spring, the town library held a cookie building contest, and every year the prize went to a fancy cookie house. This year, Ivy and her brother Finn wanted to try something different. "Let's build a bridge," Ivy said. "A bridge that can actually hold weight."

Their first bridge was a flat row of cookies glued with icing between two stacks of books. When Finn placed a small toy car in the middle, the cookies cracked and the car tumbled onto the table. Finn groaned, but Ivy grabbed a notebook. "Every mistake is data," she said, repeating something their science teacher liked to say.

They studied pictures of real bridges and noticed that many used triangles. Triangles spread the push of a load along their sides instead of letting it press on one weak spot. So the next morning, Ivy and Finn cut long, thin cookie strips and joined them into a row of triangles called a truss. They let the icing harden overnight so it would act like strong glue.

The new bridge held the toy car. Then it held a can of soup. Finally it held a full jar of peanut butter, which weighed almost two pounds. Finn could hardly believe it.

On contest day, the judges stopped at their table for a long time. Ivy and Finn did not win first prize, but they won a brand-new award the judges made up on the spot: Best Engineering. Their teacher hung their notebook, full of crossed-out drawings, on the classroom wall.

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Circle the best answer. Look back at the story to find proof.

1. What made Ivy and Finn's contest entry different?

a) They made a cookie house
b) They built a bridge that could hold weight
c) They used no icing at all
d) They entered as a whole class

2. What does Ivy mean when she says "Every mistake is data"?

a) Mistakes should be hidden
b) Mistakes mean you should quit
c) Mistakes give you information to improve
d) Mistakes are part of math class only

3. According to the passage, why do many bridges use triangles?

a) Triangles spread the push of a load along their sides
b) Triangles are the easiest shape to cut
c) Triangles look nice in pictures
d) Triangles use less icing

4. Which detail shows the second bridge was much stronger than the first?

a) It was built between books
b) The judges stopped at the table
c) Finn groaned
d) It held a full jar of peanut butter

5. What is a theme of this story? Use details from the text in 1-2 sentences.

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