

Name: _____

Date: _____

Reading Comprehension: The Science Fair Surprise

Grade 4 | Reading an original short story and answering questions with text evidence

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

The Science Fair Surprise

Jordan had spent two weeks building a model volcano for the fourth-grade science fair. He mixed baking soda, dish soap, and red food coloring in a bottle hidden inside a clay mountain. On the morning of the fair, he carried the volcano carefully into the gym and set it on a long table next to a project about magnets.

Just before the judges arrived, Jordan realized he had left the vinegar at home. Without vinegar, the volcano would not erupt. His stomach sank. "I practiced the demo ten times," he whispered. "Now I have nothing to show."

His classmate Priya overheard him. She was presenting a project on plant growth, and she had brought vinegar to clean her trays. "You can use some of mine," she said. "Science is better when we help each other."

When the judges stopped at Jordan's table, he poured the vinegar. Foam rushed down the clay slopes, and the judges smiled. Later, Jordan made a thank-you card for Priya. He wrote, "The best part of my project was learning that friends make science stronger."

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

1. What is Jordan's science fair project?

- a) A magnet experiment
- b) A model volcano
- c) A plant-growth study
- d) A weather chart

2. What problem does Jordan discover on the morning of the fair?

- a) His clay mountain cracked
- b) He left the vinegar at home
- c) The judges canceled the fair
- d) Priya took his table

3. How does Priya help Jordan?

- a) She builds him a new volcano
- b) She tells the judges to skip his table
- c) She shares some of her vinegar
- d) She mixes the baking soda for him

4. What does Jordan say he learned?

- a) Volcanoes are dangerous
- b) Science projects should be secret
- c) Friends make science stronger
- d) Vinegar is hard to find

5. What is the main lesson of the story? Use details from the passage.

Reading Comprehension: The Science Fair Surprise - ANSWER KEY

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Correct answers with supporting evidence from the story.

1. What is Jordan's science fair project?

- a) A magnet experiment
- b) A model volcano (Evidence: "building a model volcano for the fourth-grade science fair")**
- c) A plant-growth study
- d) A weather chart

2. What problem does Jordan discover on the morning of the fair?

- a) His clay mountain cracked
- b) He left the vinegar at home (Evidence: "he had left the vinegar at home")**
- c) The judges canceled the fair
- d) Priya took his table

3. How does Priya help Jordan?

- a) She builds him a new volcano
- b) She tells the judges to skip his table
- c) She shares some of her vinegar (Evidence: "You can use some of mine")**
- d) She mixes the baking soda for him

4. What does Jordan say he learned?

- a) Volcanoes are dangerous
- b) Science projects should be secret
- c) Friends make science stronger (Evidence: "friends make science stronger")**
- d) Vinegar is hard to find

5. What is the main lesson of the story? Use details from the passage.

Sample answer: The story shows that asking for help and sharing can turn a problem into success. Priya shares her vinegar, Jordan's volcano works, and he learns that friends make science stronger.