Marco and the Broken Telescope

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: Read the passage **twice**: once to enjoy it, and once to look for details. Then answer the questions. Look back at the text to **prove** your answers.

Leveled reading: this passage is written at guided reading level P, a typical level for Grade 3. Read it aloud once, then read it again silently.

Marco and the Broken Telescope



Marco had been counting down the days to the Perseid meteor shower. According to his astronomy book, up to sixty shooting stars an hour might streak across the sky on Wednesday night.

On Wednesday afternoon, Marco carried his telescope out to the backyard to set it up. As he stepped off the porch, he tripped on the garden hose. The telescope crashed onto the patio, and its lens cracked into a spiderweb of lines.

Marco sat on the steps with his head in his hands. Mrs. Okafor, his elderly neighbour, peered over the fence. "That sounded expensive," she said gently. Marco explained about the meteor shower. "Now I'll miss everything," he said.

Mrs. Okafor chuckled. "When I was a girl, nobody in my village had a telescope. We still saw every shooting star. Come over tonight, and bring a blanket."

That night, Mrs. Okafor spread two blankets on her lawn and switched off every light in her yard. "Give your eyes twenty minutes to adjust to the dark," she said. "And look at the whole sky, not one tiny piece of it."

At first, Marco saw only a few stars. Then, slowly, hundreds appeared. Suddenly, a bright streak flashed across the sky, then another, and another. Marco counted forty-two before midnight.

"I guess meteors are too fast for a telescope anyway," Marco admitted. Mrs. Okafor smiled in the darkness. "Sometimes," she said, "the best tools are the ones you were born with."

Marco and the Broken Telescope

Grade 3

1. Check your understanding

Circle the best answer.

1. What event was Marco waiting for?

(a) A solar eclipse
(b) The Perseid meteor shower
(c) A full moon

2. How did the telescope break?

(a) Marco tripped on the garden hose.
(b) His sister dropped it.
(c) It fell off a table.

3. Why did Mrs. Okafor turn off the lights?

(a) To save money
(b) So their eyes could see more stars in the dark
(c) Because it was late

4. How many shooting stars did Marco count?

(a) Sixty
(b) Forty-two
(c) Ten

2. Write your answer

Answer in complete sentences. Use details from the text.

1. **How did Marco feel after the telescope broke? Use details.**

2. **What did Mrs. Okafor mean by "the best tools are the ones you were born with"?**

3. **Why do you think meteors are too fast for a telescope?**

Answer Key

Marco and the Broken Telescope · Grade 3

1. Check your understanding

1. What event was Marco waiting for?

- (a) A solar eclipse
- **(b) The Perseid meteor shower**
- (c) A full moon

2. How did the telescope break?

- **(a) Marco tripped on the garden hose.**
- (b) His sister dropped it.
- (c) It fell off a table.

3. Why did Mrs. Okafor turn off the lights?

- (a) To save money
- **(b) So their eyes could see more stars in the dark**
- (c) Because it was late

4. How many shooting stars did Marco count?

- (a) Sixty
- **(b) Forty-two**
- (c) Ten

2. Write your answer

Sample answers. Students' wording will vary.

1. **How did Marco feel after the telescope broke? Use details.**
   He felt upset and hopeless. He sat with his head in his hands and said he would miss everything.
2. **What did Mrs. Okafor mean by "the best tools are the ones you were born with"?**
   She meant that your own eyes are enough to enjoy the stars, and you don't always need special equipment.
3. **Why do you think meteors are too fast for a telescope?**
   A telescope looks at a tiny piece of the sky, and meteors streak across very quickly, so you would probably miss them.