The Runaway Kite

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: Every story has **story elements**: **characters** (who), **setting** (where and when), a **problem**, important **events** and a **solution**.

Story map: Who? → Where and when? → What went wrong? → What happened? → How was it fixed?

The Runaway Kite



It was a windy Sunday afternoon at Pebble Beach. Ellie had a brand-new kite shaped like a rainbow fish, and she couldn't wait to fly it.

Her best friend Jamal held the kite while Ellie ran across the sand. The wind caught it, and the fish swooped high into the sky. "It's flying!" Ellie shouted.

Then a huge gust of wind yanked the string right out of her hands. The kite sailed away down the beach, its tail flapping wildly. "My kite!" Ellie cried.

The two friends chased it past sandcastles and beach umbrellas. Finally, the kite crashed onto the very top of the tall lifeguard tower, where its string tangled around the flagpole.

Ellie's shoulders drooped. The tower was much too high to climb. Jamal looked around and spotted the lifeguard, Ms. Rivera, walking back from her lunch break.

"Excuse me," Jamal said politely. "Could you please help us?" Ms. Rivera smiled, climbed the tower ladder and untangled the rainbow fish.

Ellie thanked her three times. This time, she tied the string around her wrist. The rainbow fish flew all afternoon, and it never got away again.

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1. Check your understanding

Circle the best answer.

1. Who are the main characters?

(a) Ellie and Jamal
(b) Ms. Rivera and Jamal
(c) Ellie and her mom

2. What is the setting?

(a) A park on a snowy day
(b) Pebble Beach on a windy Sunday afternoon
(c) A school gym

3. What is the problem?

(a) Ellie's kite blew away and got stuck on the lifeguard tower.
(b) It started to rain.
(c) Jamal got lost.

4. How was the problem solved?

(a) Ellie climbed the tower.
(b) The lifeguard climbed up and untangled the kite.
(c) The wind blew it down.

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2. Story map

Fill in the story elements.

Characters

Setting

Problem

Important events

Solution

Answer Key

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1. Check your understanding

1. Who are the main characters?

- **a** **Ellie and Jamal**
- **b** Ms. Rivera and Jamal
- **c** Ellie and her mom

2. What is the setting?

- **a** A park on a snowy day
- **b** **Pebble Beach on a windy Sunday afternoon**
- **c** A school gym

3. What is the problem?

- **a** **Ellie's kite blew away and got stuck on the lifeguard tower.**
- **b** It started to rain.
- **c** Jamal got lost.

4. How was the problem solved?

- **a** Ellie climbed the tower.
- **b** **The lifeguard climbed up and untangled the kite.**
- **c** The wind blew it down.

2. Story map

Characters
Ellie, Jamal, Ms. Rivera the lifeguard

Setting
Pebble Beach, a windy Sunday afternoon

Problem
Ellie's kite blew away and got stuck on top of the lifeguard tower.

Important events
The kite flies, a gust pulls the string away, the friends chase it, it tangles on the flagpole, Jamal asks the lifeguard for help.

Solution
Ms. Rivera climbs the tower and untangles the kite. Ellie ties the string to her wrist.