

Problem and Solution Graded Assignment

Cold Cash

1 It was Friday morning and Jamal was in a rush to get ready for school. Grabbing his backpack from under his bed, he headed for the door. He paused by his dresser, however, and picked up the tennis ball can he'd been using as a bank. It was heavy with coins, and they made a dull clinking sound as he popped the lid open. Jamal hadn't bothered to count how much money was in his bank lately, but he was pretty certain he had nearly reached his goal— enough money to purchase a new soccer ball.

2 He stuffed his hand into the narrow opening and pulled out a couple of dollar bills and put them into the pocket of his jeans. He probably wouldn't spend them today, but he felt it was always nice to have a little money on him. After all, you never know what might come up. He was glad he had it later, because he was so hungry on the way home from school that he stopped at the corner store to buy a package of sunflower seeds and a bottle of orange juice.

3 That evening, he decided to see exactly how much money was in the bank, so he tipped the coins out onto the bed. Pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters spilled out in a shower of silver and copper. Mixed in with the coins was a single, wrinkled dollar. Was that all? He stared inside the can, but it was empty. When he counted it all up, it came to five dollars and thirty-eight cents. Jamal's face broke into a scowl. How could that be? He'd been saving for months!

4 He shook his head and chuckled. He must have counted wrong! But when he added up the coins and bills again, he saw he'd been correct the first time. His face fell. At this rate, it would take him years to save up enough money!

5 He flopped back onto his pillow, groaning.

6 Mom appeared in the doorway. "What's wrong, Jamal?" she asked.

7 Jamal pointed to the pile of money. "I've been saving forever and I haven't even got six dollars!" Suddenly, he gasped. His head snapped forward and he stared at Mom with wide eyes. "I'll bet we got robbed!"

8 Mom sighed. "Jamal, if we'd gotten robbed, don't you think they would have taken ALL your money?"

9 Jamal frowned and shrugged, but he knew she was right. They hadn't been robbed; he'd just been spending his money too fast. He hung his head and mumbled, "I guess I'm just not good at saving money. I have no will power."

10 Mom smiled sadly. "Don't feel bad, Jamal. Saving money is hard for lots of people." She sat down next to him. "When they've got a little pile of money sitting there, it is very easy to dip into now and then. But if they dip into it too many times, it disappears."

11 Jamal sighed. "So what should I do? I try not to take money out of my bank, but sometimes... I can't help it!" he cried.

12 Mom shrugged. "One problem is that it's right there in front of you. Maybe you should put it someplace where you can't get to it so easily."

13 The next day, Jamal tried to find a good place to keep his bank. In his closet? No, that was too easy to get into. An attic would be a good place, he thought. "Too bad there's no attic in our apartment," he sighed.

14 Suddenly, an idea came to him. He scooped all his money into a zip top bag and marched into the kitchen. He grinned at Mom, but didn't say a word. She watched curiously as Jamal sealed the bag with tape and placed it in a plastic dish. Mom's mouth dropped open when Jamal filled the dish with water and placed it in the freezer.

15 "Wonderful!" laughed Mom. 16 Jamal smiled proudly. "Yes, there's nothing like a little cold cash!"

Directions: Answer the following questions based on the passage "Cold Cash".

1.) The main conflict in this passage is-

- a.) Jamal's family was robbed.
- b.) Jamal's piggy bank is empty.
- c.) Jamal is spending his money too quickly.
- d.) Jamal lost all of his money on the way to school.

2.) The main conflict can be found in paragraph-

- a.) 7
- b.) 8
- c.) 9
- d.) 10

3.) What is the resolution?

- a.) Jamal caught the robber
- b.) Jamal gave his money to his mother.
- c.) Jamal made more money.
- d.) Jamal put his money in the freezer.

4.) The resolution can be found in paragraph-

- a.) 12
- b.) 13
- c.) 14
- d.) 15

5.) Which of the following are ways Jamal tries to solve his problem?

He looks for places to hide his money.
He buys more snacks.
He tries to find out who took his money.
He asks his Mom for help.

Working Together

1 It was the last day of summer camp. The camp director planned a day of games. One of the games played was "Capture the Flag." The idea was to retrieve the team's flag from the opposing team's area without getting tagged. The teams were already divided, and all the campers were ready to start.

2 "Let the game begin!" Mrs. Wright, the camp director, shouted out to both teams.

3 Anna, Mary, Tammy, and Rosa had a plan. They were going to work together to get to the other side without being seen. Since the camp was on a large piece of land, there were many places to hide and buildings to sneak around. Despite their plan, Tammy rushed past them and got to the flag first. The girls really wanted to work together. Instead, Tammy bolted off and crossed the line before getting tagged by anyone.

4 "That was easy. Aren't you glad I am on your team?" bragged Tammy as she took a drink of water. "I can teach you how to dodge the other players so you can make it across the line next time," she added. Anna's smile quickly turned into a frown.

5 All of the campers were ready to start round two of the game. When Mrs. Wright blew the whistle, everyone scrambled and dashed to the other side to grab the flag. Anna, Mary, and Rosa attempted their plan without Tammy this time. Once again, Tammy grabbed the flag. She zoomed by Anna like a cheetah. There was no doubt that Tammy was fast and quick, but the other players wanted to have a chance to bring the flag over the line as well.

6 After Tammy made it across the line, she was very proud of herself. She didn't seem to care that others were frustrated at her for hogging the flag. "My team has two and your team has zero," Tammy boasted to a player on the other team.

7 Anna, Mary, and Rosa weren't surprised that Tammy was acting the way she was. Last year at camp, Tammy had to win every game. She never tried to work with her team. All four of them had been friends for a long time, but they didn't like being around Tammy when she was like this.

8 There was enough time to play a third round of the game. The campers were off and both teams were determined to get their flag quickly. Of course, Tammy tried to get the flag before anyone else on her team could get to it. Except this time, Anna got to the flag at the same time. Tammy was not about to let someone else carry the flag over the line. She quickly grabbed the flag. Then, she decided to run to the other side over the hill.

9 Anna was annoyed at Tammy's selfish actions. "We're on the same team, Tammy," Anna said as Tammy left with the flag. "I wish you would give someone else a chance to get the flag."

10 Suddenly, Anna heard a loud screech. She started to walk toward the noise. As she reached the peak of the small hill, a large group of concerned campers were huddled around someone. When she got close enough, she could see that it was Tammy. As she approached Tammy, she could see that Tammy's ankle was hurt and starting to swell up like a balloon. Tears were streaming down Tammy's cheeks. Anna knew that she needed to see the nurse quickly.

11 "Mary and Rosa, come here!" Anna yelled as she waved over the girls to help her.

12 All three of the girls worked together to lift Tammy to her feet. Carefully, they supported Tammy as she limped to the nurse's station.

13 "Tammy, what happened?" asked Mrs. Wright as she approached the girls.

14 "I twisted my ankle, and I have no one to blame but myself." Tammy replied as she sat on the bed in the nurse's station. Then Tammy added, "I wish that I wasn't so greedy with the flag. I need to apologize to my team, Mrs. Wright." Tammy lowered her head and wiped the tears from her eyes.

15 "Well, you have some really good friends," Mrs. Wright said while smiling at Anna, Mary, and Rosa. "Yes, I do! I have good friends that are great teammates," Tammy said as she started to grin.

6.) The main conflict in this passage is-

- a.) Tammy hurts her ankle.
- b.) Anna, Mary, and Rosa do not want Tammy on their team.
- c.) Anna, Mary, Rosa, and Tammy's team is losing the game.
- d.) Tammy is not being a team player.

7.) The main conflict can be found in paragraph-

- a.) 7
- b.) 12
- c.) 13
- d.) 16

8.) What is the resolution?

- a.) After Tammy hurts her ankle, she realizes she is being selfish.
- b.) Tammy joins that opposing team of Anna, Mary, and Rosa.
- c.) Anna, Mary, and Rosa help Tammy walk to the nurse's station.
- d.) Anna, Mary, Rosa, and Tammy's team earn several points.

9.) The resolution can be found in paragraph-

- a.) 12
- b.) 13
- c.) 14
- d.) 15

10.) Which of the following are problems that Anna, Mary, and Rosa face?

They are frustrated with how Tammy is acting.
They cannot come up with a plan together.
The other team is beating them.
They have to carry Tammy to the nurse's station.