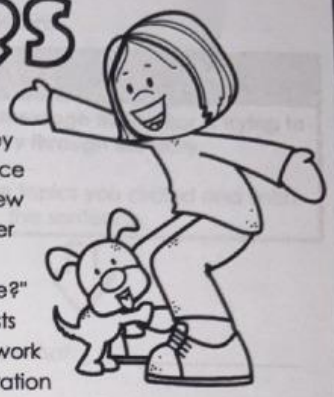
Doggie Dollars — Original Story

Name _____ Date _____

Theme Practice 3
Short Stories

DOGGIE DOLLARS



Grace loved animals, but she could never have one of her own. Her parents always said they were too much work. They encouraged her to focus on her schoolwork instead. When Grace stopped by the pet store on her way home from school, she knew she had to have one of the puppies she saw. Grace begged her parents for months, but they refused to budge.

"If I promise to take care of a puppy, can I please get one?" Grace begged her parents. "A puppy is a lot of work, and it costs money to own a dog," her dad replied. "I promise to do all the work myself. You don't even have to worry about it!" she said, desperation creeping into her voice. "We just can't afford a puppy right now, Grace." her mom said gently.

Grace was heartbroken, but she refused to give up. She started doing extra chores around the house and taking on additional babysitting jobs to save up for the puppy she so desperately wanted. Finally, after months of hard work and saving every penny, Grace had enough money to bring a puppy home. "You've worked hard and been very patient," Grace's dad said, looking at her with admiration. "I know I can take care of a puppy, and I promise to do everything you ask," Grace replied.

④ Her parents finally agreed, and Grace was ecstatic! She gathered all the money she had saved and hurried to the pet store. Grace couldn't wait to pick out the perfect puppy to bring home.

⑤ Grace spent a lot of time looking at all the puppies, but she only fell in love with one. She gently picked up a tiny black lab with a sweet puppy face and sleepy eyes. Grace held him close as she picked out food, a leash, a collar, and a bed. She even had enough money left over to purchase a few dog toys. Grace left the pet shop with a proud smile on her face.



When she arrived home, Grace set up the puppy's bed and filled his food bowl. She played with him for a long time, teaching him tricks and training him to be the best dog in the world. Grace knew he would be the perfect addition to their family and loved him more than anything.

Grace's parents soon saw how much she loved her new puppy and were proud of how well she cared for him. "A little extra work is worth it when it brings a reward like Finn," her mom said with a proud grin.

Grace smiled and leaned in to hug her new puppy, knowing that the hard work was all worth it for the love of her new furry friend.

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Topic and Theme

Circle the topics that could be the subject of the story:

☐ hard work ☐ temptation ☐ freedom ☐ perseverance ☐ patience ☐ commitment

Pick ONE topic and finish the sentence: The author thinks that...

_____

_____

1. Choose the statement below that could be the theme of the story Doggie Dollars.

○ a) Things are not always as they appear.

○ b) Hard work can bring great rewards.

○ c) Bravery will triumph over fear.

2. What lesson does the author want the reader to learn?

○ a) Hard work can go a long way toward things you enjoy in life.

○ b) Greed can lead to negative outcomes.

○ c) Always beware of strangers.

3. Which of the following character traits best describe Grace?

○ a) talented and skillful

○ b) persistent and determined

○ c) hopeful and brave

4. Which detail from the story tells you how Grace felt when her parents refused to get her a puppy?

○ a) Grace was ecstatic!

○ b) Grace worked hard and was committed to earning the money.

○ c) Grace was heartbroken, but she refused to give up.

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5. Identify the reason why Grace's dad said the following line: "You've worked hard and been very patient."

○ a) Her dad wanted her to work a little harder to earn her reward.

○ b) Her dad was stubborn.

○ c) Her dad was proud of her and considered the idea of a new puppy.

6. If you were to give this story a new title that communicated the theme, what would it be?

Write a new title that communicates the theme.

_____

7. Based on the story, what was the main problem Grace had?

○ a) She wanted a puppy, but the animal shelter didn't have any.

○ b) She needed to find a job to save money for a puppy.

○ c) She wanted a puppy, but her parents couldn't afford one.

8. How is Grace's problem resolved in the story?

○ a) She visited the pet store to ask about applying for a job.

○ b) She begged her parents for help.

○ c) She did extra chores around the house and took on additional babysitting jobs.

9. How do Grace's actions help determine the theme?

○ a) Grace demonstrated determination as she worked hard to save money for a puppy.

○ b) Grace's actions showed how lazy she was.

○ c) Grace showed love and support towards her parents.

10. Which words below describe the setting of this story?

○ a) school, a pet store, and Grace's home

○ b) Grace's home and the pet store

○ c) the pet store and Grace's backyard

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11. According to paragraph #5, how did Grace feel when she left the pet store?

○ a) She was excited and couldn't wait to pick out the perfect puppy.

○ b) She knew her parents would love Finn.

○ c) She was proud of herself for working hard because now she had a puppy that was all hers.

12. How does the following sentence from the story help determine the theme? "A little extra work is worth it when it brings a reward like Finn," her mom said with a proud grin.

○ a) It shows the reader that Grace's mom is willing to help her with Finn.

○ b) It shows that Grace had demonstrated commitment and hard work.

○ c) It shows that Grace gave up too easily.

13. Which of the following could be used in place of the word ecstatic in paragraph #4?

○ a) troubled

○ b) ridiculous

○ c) thrilled

14. Which of the following is the best definition of the word admiration as it is used in the story?

○ a) a feeling of respect and approval

○ b) to wonder how something came to be

○ c) to have a strong feeling of unhappiness

15. Which of the following could be another topic for this story?

○ a) teamwork

○ b) anger

○ c) determination

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16. Which of the following could be another theme for this story?

○ a) Change is a part of life.

○ b) Determination can help you overcome any obstacle.

○ c) A promise made is a promise kept.

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Summarize the Story

Summarizing means telling what is important in your own words, without including every event.

Somebody: Who was the main character?

Wanted: What did the character want?

But: What was the problem?

So: How did the character try to solve the problem?

Then: What was the solution to the problem?

Put your summary together in your own words.

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