Name:_____

Lucas and the Stormy Garden

On Saturday morning, eight-year-old Lucas stepped outside and saw his neighbor, Mr. Henderson, standing near his garden. A heavy rainstorm the night before had knocked down Mr. Henderson's wooden plant stakes and scattered thick tree branches across his vegetable patch. Mr. Henderson looked worried because today was the day he needed to plant his tomato seeds. Lucas knew how much Mr. Henderson loved gardening, so he wanted to help his neighbor clean up the yard.

Lucas put on his work gloves and began dragging the heavy oak branches out of the garden. But the branches were much larger than he expected, and there were dozens of them piled against the fence. To make matters worse, Lucas had a Little League baseball game in two hours, and he did not have enough time or strength to clear the yard by himself. Lucas felt frustrated, but he refused to give up on helping Mr. Henderson.

So, Lucas ran down the sidewalk to the neighborhood park where his teammates, Sandy and Caleb, were practicing their throws. Lucas explained Mr. Henderson's problem and asked if they would lend a hand. Sandy and Caleb put down their gloves and followed Lucas back to the garden. Working as a team, Caleb carried the small sticks, Sandy stacked the thick branches by the curb, and Lucas helped Mr. Henderson set the wooden stakes back into the soil.



In less than an hour, the garden patch was completely clear, and Mr. Henderson's tomato seeds were safely planted. Mr. Henderson smiled warmly and poured cold glasses of lemonade for the kids. Lucas made it to his baseball game right on time, feeling proud that he and his friends had made a difference for someone in their community.

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Name:_____

S SOMEBODY (Character)
I IN (Setting)
W WANTED (Motivation)
B BUT (Problem)
S SO (Resolution)
T THEN (End)

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Name:_____

1. Part A

What is the central message of the story?

A. Always finish your chores before going to play sports.

B. Working together makes it easier to help others in need.

C. Gardening takes a lot of time and hard work.

D. Storms can cause a lot of damage to trees and plants.

Part B

Which sentence from the passage best supports the answer to Part A?

A. "On Saturday morning, eight-year-old Lucas stepped outside and saw his neighbor, Mr. Henderson, standing near his garden."

B. "To make matters worse, Lucas had a Little League baseball game in two hours..."

C. "Working as a team, Caleb carried the small sticks, Sandy stacked the thick branches by the curb, and Lucas helped Mr. Henderson set the wooden stakes back into the soil."

D. "Mr. Henderson smiled warmly and poured cold glasses of lemonade for the kids."

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