Name:_____

The Whispering Willow and the Little Beaver

High on the bank of Cedar Creek stood an old tree named Whispering Willow. Willow loved watching the forest animals play and work. One crisp autumn morning, a young beaver named Bramble arrived near the roots of the tree. Bramble wanted to build a sturdy lodge before winter came, but he was small and became tired from dragging heavy branches across the muddy bank.

"You are pushing yourself too hard, little beaver," whispered Willow, gently swaying her long leaves. "Why don't you ask the other animals for help?"



Bramble shook his tail proudly. "I am strong enough to build my lodge all by myself," he insisted. He spent the entire afternoon lugging a heavy birch log up the steep hill. Halfway up, his paws slipped in the mud. The heavy log rolled backward, tumbling into the creek with a loud splash. Sore and discouraged, Bramble sat on the bank and hung his head. He realized winter was coming fast, and he could not complete the lodge alone.

Seeing Bramble's distress, Willow rustled her leaves loudly to call the nearby creatures. Soon, two river otters and a family of field mice rushed over to see what was wrong. Bramble swallowed his pride and apologized for not asking for help earlier. "Would you please help me gather branches for my winter home?" he asked softly.

The otters happily pulled logs out of the deep water, while the mice gathered smaller sticks and moss to seal the walls. Working together, the group finished Bramble's lodge before the sun set. Bramble invited his new helpers inside to share a cozy meal of acorns and sweet bark. As the cold evening wind blew, Bramble snuggled safely inside his warm home, knowing that accepting help and working as a team had saved his winter.

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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. MLS Code: 3.R.1.A.c | DOK Level: 2

Part A

What is the central message of the passage?

A. Always finish your work before playing.

B. Asking for help and working together leads to success.

C. Older animals always know more than younger animals.

D. It is important to stay safe near rushing water.

Part B

Which pair of sentences from the passage best supports the answer to Part A?

A. "Bramble wanted to build a sturdy lodge before winter came, but he was small..."

B. "Bramble shook his tail proudly. 'I am strong enough to build my lodge all by myself,' he insisted."

C. "Bramble swallowed his pride and apologized for not asking for help earlier. 'Would you please help me gather branches for my winter home?' he asked softly."

D. "Sore and discouraged, Bramble sat on the bank and hung his head."

2. MLS Code: 3.R.1.A.c | DOK Level: 2

Select three sentences that belong in a summary of the beginning, middle, and end of the story.

A. Whispering Willow sways her long golden leaves in the autumn breeze.

B. Bramble tries to build a winter lodge all by himself but slips and loses his log.

C. Bramble asks the otters and mice for help after realizing he cannot do it alone.

D. The river otters dive under the deep water to catch fish.

E. The animals work together to finish the lodge, and Bramble learns the value of teamwork.

F. Bramble eats a dinner of acorns and bark with Whispering Willow.

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