



Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Grade 3

Answer Key

The Science Fair Surprise

Jamal had been planning his science fair project for weeks. He wanted to test whether plants grew faster with regular water or with water mixed with a little bit of plant food. Every morning before school, he measured his two bean plants and wrote the numbers in a notebook. At first, the two plants looked almost the same, and Jamal worried his project would not show anything interesting.

By the second week, something changed. The plant with the plant food had grown almost two inches taller than the other one. Its leaves were a deeper green, too. Jamal was thrilled, but he also wanted to make sure his results were fair. He asked his teacher, Mrs. Kim, if he should test a third plant to be sure. She smiled and said that was exactly the kind of thinking real scientists use.

On the day of the science fair, Jamal explained his experiment to the judges using his notebook full of measurements and two neat charts. He told them that testing more than one plant made his results more reliable. The judges were impressed, not just because Jamal's plants had grown well, but because he understood why careful testing mattered. Jamal won first place, but what made him proudest was realizing he had actually thought like a scientist.

Circle the Correct Answer

1. What was Jamal testing in his experiment?

Answer: b) Whether plant food helps plants grow faster

2. What did Jamal do every morning before school?

Answer: b) He measured the plants and wrote down the numbers

3. Why did Jamal want to test a third plant?

Answer: a) To make his results more reliable

4. What made Jamal feel proudest at the end of the story?

Answer: c) Realizing he had thought like a scientist

True or False

5. Jamal tested only one bean plant.

Answer: False

6. The plant with plant food grew taller than the other plant.

Answer: True

7. Mrs. Kim discouraged Jamal from testing a third plant.

Answer: False

Fill in the Blank

8. Jamal wrote his measurements in a _____ every morning.

Answer: notebook

9. The judges were impressed by how _____ Jamal's testing was.

Answer: careful

Think and Explain

10. What is the main idea of this story? Explain it in one or two sentences.

Sample answer: Accept reasonable answers that mention testing carefully / using more than one example makes an experiment more reliable, and that real scientists think this way.

11. Why do you think testing more than one plant made Jamal's results more reliable? Use details from the story to explain your answer.

Sample answer: Accept reasonable answers noting that one plant alone could grow differently by chance, so testing more plants helps confirm the pattern is real and not a coincidence.