



Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Grade 7

Answer Key

The Last Charging Station

On the colony of Kepler's Rest, every building ran on solar power stored in a single massive battery bank at the settlement's center, a system everyone simply called the Station. When twelve-year-old Wren woke to find the Station's warning lights flashing red, she knew exactly what it meant: a dust storm had buried the solar panels overnight, and without sunlight, the colony had less than two days of stored power left.

Wren's parents were part of the survey team, three days away by rover and unreachable until the storm cleared enough for communications to work again. That left Wren, her neighbor Old Tomas, and a handful of other colonists to figure out a plan before the water recyclers, greenhouse lights, and heating systems all failed at once. "We could ration power to the greenhouse only," Tomas suggested, tapping his weathered tablet. "Lose the heating, keep the food growing. People can wear extra layers. They cannot eat nothing."

Wren had a different idea. She had spent the last several months tinkering with an old prototype wind turbine in the colony's junk yard, something the original engineers had abandoned as too inefficient for regular use. It was inefficient, true, but Kepler's Rest was famous for its punishing crosswinds, especially during dust storms. If she could get even one turbine working, it might buy the colony critical extra hours.

By midday, Wren, Tomas, and three other colonists had hauled the turbine to the ridge above the settlement and rigged it, part improvised and part genuinely clever engineering, to feed directly into the Station's backup input. It groaned, sputtered, then began spinning steadily in the storm-driven wind. It was not enough power to run everything, but it was enough to keep the greenhouse lights on without sacrificing the heating after all. When the dust storm finally broke two days later and the solar panels

came back online, Wren realized something the original engineers had missed: sometimes the tool nobody wants is exactly the one a crisis needs.

Circle the Correct Answer

1. What powers the colony of Kepler's Rest?

Answer: a) A single massive solar battery bank called the Station

2. Why couldn't Wren's parents help with the crisis?

Answer: b) They were three days away and unreachable during the storm

3. What was Tomas's original suggestion for handling the power shortage?

Answer: b) Ration power to the greenhouse only, sacrificing heating

4. What idea did Wren have instead?

Answer: b) Using an abandoned wind turbine, since the storm brought strong winds

True or False

5. The colony had less than two days of stored power left when the Station's lights turned red.

Answer: True

6. The wind turbine had originally been considered too efficient to use.

Answer: False

7. Wren's plan provided enough power to keep both the greenhouse and heating running.

Answer: True

Fill in the Blank

8. Wren had spent months _____ with an old prototype wind turbine.

Answer: tinkering

9. The turbine was rigged partly through genuine clever _____.

Answer: engineering

Think and Explain

10. How does the setting of this story, a small colony that depends entirely on one power source, shape the conflict and the choices the characters make? Use details from the text to support your answer.

Sample answer: Accept reasonable answers noting that the colony's total dependence on a single power source raises the stakes immediately when it fails, forcing characters into urgent, resourceful decisions rather than allowing a slow or

low-risk response, and that the specific environmental detail of punishing crosswinds directly enables Wren's solution.

11. What is the theme of this story? Use the final line as evidence in your answer.

Sample answer: Accept reasonable answers noting that the theme centers on resourcefulness or seeing value in overlooked tools and ideas, supported by the final line: 'sometimes the tool nobody wants is exactly the one a crisis needs.'