

A Place on the Team

Name: _____ Date: _____

Maya held a box of straws at the end of the table. Her class had a challenge: build a bridge that could hold a toy car. Ben drew a long, flat bridge. Jo reached for the tape. Maya had an idea too, but she kept it to herself. The other two seemed so sure.

The first bridge bent in the middle. The car rolled into the gap between the desks. Ben sighed and pulled off a strip of tape. Maya remembered the small bridge near her home. It had triangles along its sides. She drew three triangles on a scrap of paper and slid it toward Jo.

"Could we try this?" Maya asked softly. Jo moved the straws into the shapes Maya had drawn. Ben taped them together. This time, the car stayed on the bridge. When Ben added a second car, one side leaned. Maya pointed to a loose corner. "That joint needs more tape," she said. No one had to ask her to speak.

At the end of class, each team shared its work. Maya used to hope that someone else would talk. Now she picked up the drawing. She explained how the team had changed its bridge after each test. Her voice shook at first, but she kept going. When a classmate asked a question, Maya smiled and showed him the triangles.

Read closely. Find the evidence.

1. How does Maya change during the story?

- A. She stops caring about the bridge.
- B. She becomes more willing to share her ideas.
- C. She decides to work without her team.
- D. She learns to let Ben make every choice.

2. Which event first helps Maya take part in the project?

- A. The class goes home.
- B. Ben puts the straws away.
- C. The team tries the triangles she drew.
- D. A classmate builds a new bridge.

3. What does Maya's choice to explain the bridge show?

- A. She has become more confident.
- B. She wants to hide the drawing.
- C. She is upset with her classmates.
- D. She thinks the project was too easy.

4. Which detail best shows Maya's feelings at the beginning?

- A. The bridge has triangles.
- B. The toy car rolls into a gap.
- C. Jo reaches for the tape.
- D. Maya has an idea but keeps it to herself.

Talk it through: Describe Maya at the beginning and end. Use one action from each part to explain how she changes.