

Theme

Grade 5 Reading Worksheet

The **theme** of the story is the message, lesson or moral that the author wants you to learn. The author usually does not tell you the theme directly. Some common themes include:

Courage	Acceptance	Kindness	Honesty	Cooperation
Friendship	Loyalty	Hard work	Responsibility	Good vs. Evil

Read the passage below and underline details that may help you figure out the theme. Then answer the questions.

Maya loved sketching and drawing more than anything else. While her classmates played soccer or talked about video games, Maya spent every recess sketching imaginary worlds in her notebook. A few of the girls teased her for only wanting to draw in her spare time, and they told her that she should try to be more like everyone else. Their words made Maya feel like she didn't belong. During recess, she started hiding her notebook inside another book to make it look like she was reading.

One day, the teacher announced that Morning Meeting would focus on students sharing something they cared about. Every student had a different day to "shine." Maya was nervous, but she decided she would share what was most important to her: her sketchbook! Even though she had flutters in her stomach, she stood up in front of the class and showed her drawings. She explained how art helped her express her feelings and made her feel free. To her surprise, the room was quiet, and her classmates looked at her drawings with awe. After she spoke, several of her classmates asked her questions about her art. A few even said they wished they could draw like her!

After that day, Maya realized she shouldn't have to hide her sketchbook. By being brave and being her true self, she helped her classmates understand who she was. Her classmates no longer ignored her at recess. Instead, they asked if they could see her drawings. Some students started sitting next to Maya and sketching at recess. Sometimes, Maya even asked her classmates if she could join them and play!



1. What problem did Maya face?

2. How did Maya solve this problem?

3. What lesson did Maya learn once the problem was solved?

4. Rewrite the lesson as a message that applies to everyone. This is the theme of the story!

5. Have you ever dealt with this theme in your own life? Explain.

Answers

1. What problem did Maya face?

Maya spent all her time drawing and didn't feel like she belonged at school.

2. How did Maya solve this problem?

Maya shared her sketches during her class's Morning Meeting.

3. What lesson did Maya learn once the problem was solved?

She learned that when she was her true self, it helped her classmates understand her.

4. Rewrite the lesson as a message that applies to everyone. This is the theme of the story!

Answers may vary, but one possibility is: You don't have to change who you are to belong.

5. Have you ever dealt with this theme in your own life? Explain.

Answers will vary.