

The missing label: reading response

Suggested: Years 3-4 | Pupil page

Read an original story and answer retrieval, inference and explanation questions.

Name: _____ Date: _____

The missing label

At the class display, Rowan found a small model boat with no name label. Beside it lay a wet paper square. Rowan did not move either item. Instead, they asked the class who had been working at the water tray.

"I was," said Ellis, "but my boat has a blue sail." This boat had a green sail. Then Noor hurried over carrying a dry paper square. "I wrote it again," Noor said. "The first one fell in the tray."

Rowan looked at the wet square. A faint N was still visible. Noor placed the new label beside the boat and smiled. Before lunch, Rowan put a small empty tray next to the display, ready for anyone who needed to keep a model dry.

1. What two things did Rowan find at the display?

2. Why was Ellis probably not the owner of this boat?

3. Whose boat was it likely to be? Give two clues.

4. Why might Rowan have added the empty tray?

The missing label: reading response | Teacher notes

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Purpose and use

Read an original story and answer retrieval, inference and explanation questions.

Teaching notes

The passage is original fiction. Allow rereading and a spoken or pointed response if the aim is comprehension.

Accept other explanations supported by the text. Questions 3 and 4 require reasoning; ask pupils to identify their evidence.

Answers / suggested responses

1. A small model boat without a name label, and a wet paper square.
2. Ellis said their boat had a blue sail; this boat had a green sail.
3. Probably Noor: Noor brings a replacement label, says the first fell in the tray, and the wet square has a visible N.
4. To help keep later models dry. This is a supported inference, not explicitly stated as Rowan's reason.

Print and adapt

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