

The paper bridge

Fiction | 6 questions

Name: _____ Date: _____

Read once for the main idea. Look back at the passage while answering. Find words that support each answer.

Leo laid a sheet of paper between two piles of books. He placed a toy car in the middle. The paper sagged, and the car slid onto the table.

“It needs more paper,” he said, reaching for the packet.

His sister May held out one hand. “Try changing the shape first.” She folded a fresh sheet backwards and forwards, making a row of narrow pleats. Leo balanced the folded sheet across the same gap. This time, the car stayed in place.

Leo added a second car. The bridge bent a little, but it did not fall. He sketched the folds in his notebook and wrote down how many cars it held.

“Now we can compare them fairly,” May said. “Keep the gap the same when you try another shape.”

Leo moved one pile of books closer, then stopped. He put it back where it had been. He wanted to find out whether the folds made a difference, rather than whether a shorter bridge was easier to support.

Questions

Choose one answer for each question. You can refer to the passage. The answer notes start on a separate page.

1. What happened to the first car?

- A. It slid onto the table
- B. It rolled under the books
- C. It stayed on the bridge
- D. It broke in half

2. What did May change?

- A. The material of the table
- B. The size of the car
- C. The shape of the paper
- D. The number of books

3. What are “pleats” in this passage?

- A. Small tears
- B. Loose threads
- C. Painted stripes
- D. Repeated folds

4. Why did Leo write in his notebook?

- A. To keep a record of the bridge design and result
- B. To write a story about the car
- C. To hide his mistake from May
- D. To count the pages in the notebook

5. Why did Leo move the books back?

- A. He wanted to make the bridge shorter
- B. He needed room for a bigger car
- C. He wanted the gap to stay the same
- D. May wanted to read the books

6. What is the main lesson of the final paragraph?

- A. Change one thing when making a fair comparison
- B. Never write down an experiment
- C. Always use the largest pile of books
- D. Fold every sheet exactly ten times

Answers and explanations

Try the questions before reading these notes. A practice score is not an exam grade.

1. A. It slid onto the table

The flat paper sagged, causing the car to slide onto the table.

2. C. The shape of the paper

May folded a fresh sheet into narrow pleats.

3. D. Repeated folds

The paper is folded backwards and forwards to make the pleats.

4. A. To keep a record of the bridge design and result

His sketch and car count record what he tried and what happened.

5. C. He wanted the gap to stay the same

Changing the gap would change another part of the comparison.

6. A. Change one thing when making a fair comparison

Leo keeps the gap fixed so he can focus on the effect of the folds.

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