

A Motivated Problem Solver

A **problem** is something the character wants to figure out, change, or fix.

A **solution** is the way a problem is solved.

Characters must actively work to solve problems. Sometimes they try several ways to solve a problem.

Part 1: Directions: Read the passage and identify the problem and solution for this plot.



Underline the problem in blue.



Underline the solution in green.

Tomiko needed a new bike. All of her friends in the neighborhood enjoyed taking long bike rides after school, and Tomiko loved it, too! Her bike was broken, though. Her parents did not have enough money to buy her a new bike. They told her she would have to buy her own bike.

She checked her piggy bank to see how much money she already had. Tomiko only found \$8.65. This was not even close to the amount that she needed in order to buy a new bike for herself. The bike Tomiko had chosen was \$75. She needed to earn a lot of money before she was going to be able to take that bike home and get back to her bike rides. After brainstorming, Tomiko decided she would earn that money quickly.

“Yes!” Tomiko exclaimed. Tomiko’s parents approved a few of her ideas. Tomiko was excited to start earning money. She missed her long bike rides with her friends and wanted to get back to her routine as fast as possible.

She immediately got to work. To advertise the lemonade stand, Tomiko placed flyers and posters around town. That Saturday, she set up her table and chair, and she tied balloons to her chair so passersby noticed her. Her lemonade stand was busy all afternoon.

“Thirty dollars,” Tomiko mumbled. “Hey, that’s pretty good!” She was pleased with the earnings from a Saturday afternoon lemonade stand. This motivated her to keep working hard.

Next, Tomiko visited her neighbors. She offered to complete any housework or chores for them. She explained her goal. The neighbors appreciated her determination and gave Tomiko a job. She would be responsible for taking the trash out for the neighbors every week.

Tomiko’s next door neighbors would be going on vacation. They needed someone to care for their animals while they were gone. They hired Tomiko for the job. She cared for a dog, two cats, and a bird.

After a few weeks, Tomiko counted her money. She had reached her goal. Tomiko’s mom and dad brought her to the store. She purchased the bike with pride. She earned it!

Part 2: Directions: Answer the following questions.

1. Why is paragraph 5 important to the story?

- a. It shows that it was fun to have a lemonade stand.
- b. It shows that Tomiko was excited to have a new bike.
- c. It shows that you can earn a lot of money by having a lemonade stand.
- d. It shows that Tomiko experienced some success and was motivated to continue her hard work.

2. What are three ways in which the character tries to solve the problem?

-
-
-