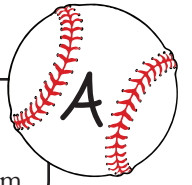


Reading Comprehension: Lulu's Grades



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.

Directions: Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

Lulu sighed as she received her progress report. She had a feeling that it wasn't going to be good, but when she opened it, her heart sank. She was failing math. How would she explain this to her dad?

Lulu's dad was very strict. He expected her to do well in school, as well as on the softball field. He would be disappointed in her, and Lulu dreaded going home to tell him.

"Dad, I'm really sorry," Lulu said. "I promise I will bring these grades up."

"Well, honey," her dad replied. "If the grades don't come up, there will be no softball team for the rest of the season. It's up to you."

Lulu understood. Right then, she made a promise to herself that she would fix this. She spent the evening in her bedroom thinking about all the things she could do to get her math grade above the failing mark.

On Monday morning, Lulu approached her math teacher. She asked if she could come to the classroom before school in the morning to get extra help. Her teacher agreed, and Lulu already felt a sense of accomplishment. This was the first step to bringing up her grades.

That same day, Lulu asked Jaime, another girl in her math class, for help. Jaime agreed to help her and they set up a plan to get together three days a week after school.

After school, Lulu asked her dad for permission to use the computer instead of watching television.

"My teacher told me about this online program I can use to practice my math skills," Lulu explained to her dad. "There is no way I'm missing a day of softball! I'm going to get these grades up, Dad!"

Through the week, Lulu practiced and studied. Then, she practiced and studied some more. On Friday after school, Lulu's dad received a phone call from the teacher. She asked if she could speak to Lulu.

"Lulu, sweet girl," the teacher said excitedly. "You made an A on the test! That brings your overall grade up, and you are no longer failing. Great job! Keep up this hard work because it is paying off."

Lulu grinned, looked at her dad, and gave him a thumbs up. They picked up their bags and headed to the softball field. Lulu was on cloud nine.

| Reading Comprehension | Figurative Language |
|--|---|
| 1. Underline the problem. 2. Circle the solution. 3. Why was Lulu motivated to solve her problem? 4. List three ways in which the character tries to solve the problem. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • | In the text, the last sentence states, "Lulu was on cloud nine." What does it mean? |