

Theme: The Three-Legged Race

Read the story. Use details to figure out the theme.

Example: Ask: What does the character LEARN? Look at how they change from the beginning to the end.

A Read the Story

The Three-Legged Race

Jada was the fastest runner in fourth grade, and she knew it. At field day, she was paired with Ben for the three-legged race. Ben was slow, and Jada was annoyed. "Just keep up," she said, and she took off running. Their legs tangled, and they fell in the grass. The other teams raced past. Ben sat up and said, "Let's count our steps together: inside, outside." Jada rolled her eyes, but she tried it. Step by step, they found a rhythm. They did not win, but they crossed the finish line together, laughing. Later, Jada told Ben, "Next year, I want you as my partner again."

1. Which sentence BEST states the theme of the story?

- ☐ Fast runners always win races.
- ☐ Working together works better than going alone.
- ☐ Field day is the best day of school.

B Use Details

2. How does Jada act at the START of the race?

Answer: _____

3. How has Jada changed by the END of the story?

Answer: _____

★ Safari Challenge

Write the theme of this story in your own words. Then copy one detail that shows it.

Answer Key: Theme: The Three-Legged Race

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1. Which sentence BEST states the theme of the story?
 - ☐ Fast runners always win races.
 - ☒ **Working together works better than going alone.**
 - ☐ Field day is the best day of school.

B Use Details

2. How does Jada act at the START of the race?

Answer: **She is annoyed with Ben and runs off without him ("Just keep up").**

3. How has Jada changed by the END of the story?

Answer: **She values Ben as a partner and wants to team up with him again.**

★ Safari Challenge

Write the theme of this story in your own words. Then copy one detail that shows it.

Sample: Teamwork is better than doing it alone. Detail: "Step by step, they found a rhythm."