*3rd Grade, Unit 2 Formative Assessment*

This assessment is meant to measure progress towards the following standards:

* RL.3.3 Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events
* RI.3.4 Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 3 topic or subject area

Students are expected to match the following terms to their definitions: character, physical trait, character trait, feeling, and motivation. Students will then choose a character trait that describes the main character and provide evidence to support their choice. Finally, students are given a character trait and its definition. Students are then asked if the trait describes the main character and to justify their response using evidence from the text. In future units and assessments, students will continue to deepen their understanding of character traits and how a character’s traits contribute to the plot

Directions for Giving the Assessment:

Students should spend 10 minutes independently reading the passage and answering the questions on this assessment. Encourage students, especially struggling readers, to think about strategies they have for reading difficult passages/texts.

Because we know that vocabulary is typically a tricky spot for our students, questions 1-2 address standard RI.3.4. Questions 3 and 4 measure standard RL.3.3.

After 10 minutes, please read the passage and questions aloud for the class. If asked, continue to read aloud any portion of the passage or question. While we know that *read aloud* is not an allowable accommodation on the reading portion of high-stakes testing, the purpose of this assessment is to measure reading comprehension…not independent reading comprehension.

Kevin loves to read mystery books. He reads books because he likes to try to solve the mystery himself before he gets to the end. Solving puzzles is like solving mysteries, so he likes working on puzzles too. He also likes solving problems. Kevin can usually solve any mystery, puzzle, or problem.

The Solver

One day Kevin’s mom was trying to find her glasses. Without her glasses, she could not drive. This was a problem because she was going to drive Kevin to his friend’s house. It was also a mystery and a puzzle. Kevin really wanted to solve this mystery.

Kevin sat down with his mom. “Where do you last remember seeing your glasses?” he asked.

“I had them on while I was watching the news this morning,” she said.

“Where were you watching the news?” asked Kevin.

His mom thought for a minute, and then she answered that she was in the family room. She remembered sitting in her favorite chair and taking off her glasses when the news ended. She thought she placed her glasses on the table, but there weren’t there.

“Are you sure you didn’t put them on again after the morning news?” asked Kevin.

“Maybe I did,” his mom replied.

“Let’s walk through your day, Mom,” said Kevin.

Kevin had his mom describe everything she remembered doing during the day so far. She mentioned watching the news, making breakfast, folding laundry, working in her home office and then gardening. It was after gardening that she started looking for her glasses.

After hearing about his mom’s day, Kevin retraced her path through the house and yard. He looked under the cushion of her favorite chair, in the kitchen, in the laundry basket, in her office, and around the garden. He didn’t find her glasses.

Kevin doesn’t give up easily though so he looked in each place again, and he looked even harder. It was on his second go around of the kitchen that he thought to open the cabinets instead of just looking on the counters. Kevin solved the mystery, the puzzle, and the problem. He found his mom’s glasses in the drawer with the silverware.

“Thank you, Kevin,” said his mom, “I wouldn’t be able to see anything without you.”

1. The first column below lists words you have been studying. For each word, find the definition in the second column and write the letter on the line to the left of the word. Some definitions will not be used.
2. adjectives that tell how a character is on the inside
3. the events that make up a story
4. adjectives that tell what the character looks like on the outside
5. environment in which the story takes place
6. who the story is about
7. what makes a person or character do the things they do
8. an emotion felt by a person or character

\_\_\_\_\_\_ character

\_\_\_\_\_\_ physical trait

\_\_\_\_\_\_ character trait

\_\_\_\_\_\_ feeling

\_\_\_\_\_\_motivation

1. Some of the words below are character traits, *but* some of the words are emotions. Circle all of the words that represent **character traits**.

shocked bossy rude efficient

brave embarrassed confused proud

kind ambitious surprised joyful

1. Which of the following character traits best describes Kevin? Circle your choice.

funny determined peaceful lucky strange

Justify your answer by providing evidence from the passage.

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1. Someone who is **impulsive** does things suddenly without first thinking about them carefully. Is **impulsive** a character trait that can be used to describe Kevin? Justify your answer with evidence from the passage.

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\_\_E\_\_\_\_ character

\_\_C\_\_\_\_ physical trait

\_\_A\_\_\_\_ character trait

\_\_G\_\_\_\_ feeling

\_\_F\_\_\_\_ motivation

1. Some of the words below are character traits, *but* some of the words are emotions. Circle all of the words that represent **character traits**.

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1. Which of the following character traits best describes Kevin? Circle your choice.

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Justify your answer by providing evidence from the passage.

Answers will vary, but students should respond by saying that Kevin was determined to find his mom’s glasses. He asked her questions to find out where she might have left them, and then he retraced her steps. He did not give up until he found the glasses.

1. Someone who is **impulsive** does things suddenly without first thinking about them carefully. Is **impulsive** a character trait that can be used to describe Kevin? Justify your answer with evidence from the passage.

No, Kevin is not impulsive. Before searching for his mom’s glasses, Kevin asked her questions about where she had them last. He did not begin looking for the glasses until he had a plan.