

THEME & PURPOSE

Q3 • Wk3

Grade 5

Marcus and the Garden Wall

PERSEVERANCE

Perseverance means continuing to work toward your goal even when the task.

preceptor reads aloud

DO THIS

► Read the passage carefully.

READ • read carefully — you will answer questions about this

- 1 Marcus stared at the crumbling brick wall that divided his family's yard from the overgrown empty lot next door. His grandfather had built that wall fifty years ago. Last winter, a storm had knocked down half of it, scattering bricks across the ground. "I want to rebuild it," Marcus told his grandfather. Grandfather smiled, though his hands trembled a little. "That's hard work, son. But if you start, you must finish."
- 2 On Saturday morning, Marcus began. He pulled on his work gloves and studied his grandfather's old instructions written on a faded card. He mixed mortar, just like the card showed—cement, sand, and water. He placed the first brick carefully, spreading mortar on each side. By noon, he had laid only twelve bricks. His arms ached. He wanted to stop. But he thought of his grandfather's words: finish what you start.
- 3 Sunday came, and Marcus returned. More bricks went down, one by one. His friend Tommy came over, looked at the growing wall, and said, "That's taking forever! Let's go ride bikes instead." Marcus felt torn. But he kept working. By evening, he had added thirty more bricks. The wall was growing, even if slowly.
- 4 Monday after school, Marcus added another section. Tuesday, another. His family noticed his determination. His mother brought him water and snacks. His little sister handed him bricks without being asked. His grandfather sat nearby in a chair, watching and encouraging him. "You're staying strong," Grandfather said. "That's what builders do."
- 5 By Friday, one week later, Marcus stood back and looked. The wall was half rebuilt. His

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READ (continued) • keep reading

hands were sore and blistered. His back ached from bending. But he wasn't finished yet. He thought about quitting every single day—on Wednesday when it rained, on Thursday when he was tired, on Friday when his muscles screamed. Yet he came back each time. This was the hardest thing he had ever done, but it was also the most important.

- 6 The following Saturday, Marcus laid the final brick. He stepped back, breathing hard, and realized what he had done. The wall stood strong and whole, just as his grandfather had built it all those years ago. His family cheered. Grandfather pulled him close in a long hug. "You finished," he whispered. "And more than the wall—you finished what was inside you. You proved you could do hard things." Marcus looked at his creation and smiled. The blistered hands and tired muscles had been worth it.

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DO THIS

► Find the lesson, and why the author wrote this.

THE LESSON • what can we learn from this passage?

What happened?

What did the character learn?

What lesson can apply to me?

WHY DID THE AUTHOR WRITE THIS? • circle one

☐ inform☐ entertain☐ explain☐ persuade☐ describe

WRITE • The lesson of this passage is _____.

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ANSWER KEY

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DO THIS

► Find the lesson, and why the author wrote this.

THE LESSON • what can we learn from this passage?

What happened?

Marcus committed to the hard work, mixing mortar and laying bricks every day for two weeks, facing aching muscles and blistered hands while resisting temptation to quit, and his family supported him throughout the project

What did the character learn?

Perseverance means continuing to work toward your goal even when the task is hard, you are tired, or you face temptation to quit—and doing so helps you grow stronger and accomplish meaningful things.

What lesson can apply to me?

WHY DID THE AUTHOR WRITE THIS? • circle one

☐ inform☒ entertain☐ explain☐ persuade☐ describe

WRITE • The lesson of this passage is _____.