Name: Date: Score: / 6

A Voice for the River: Comprehension

Fiction story · about 275 words

Read the story. Then answer each question. Circle the best answer or write your answer on the lines.

🏞️ A Voice for the River

Mai had lived beside the Cedar River her whole life. She knew where the kingfishers nested and where the otters slid down the muddy bank. So when she read in the newspaper that the city planned to build a parking lot over the wetland by the river, her stomach twisted.

"Someone should do something," she told her father.

"Someone like who?" he asked.

Mai thought about it all night. The next day, she started researching. She learned that wetlands absorb floodwater, and that the neighborhood next to the river had flooded twice in the last ten years. She learned that the wetland was home to a type of turtle that was becoming rare in the state.

Mai wrote a letter to the city council. Then she made a petition and collected signatures at the farmers market. People were surprised to see a ten-year-old with a clipboard, but many stopped to listen. By the end of the month, she had 812 signatures.

At the council meeting, Mai's hands shook as she stepped up to the microphone. She held up photos of the turtles and a map showing where floodwater spread. "If you pave the wetland," she said, "the water will have nowhere to go but people's basements."

The council members whispered to each other. Then one of them asked if the parking lot could be built on an empty lot two blocks away instead. After two more meetings, the council voted to move the parking lot and protect the wetland as a nature area.

That summer, a new sign stood by the river: "Cedar River Wetland Preserve." Below it, someone had added a small handwritten note: "Thanks, Mai."

1. **Main idea:** What is the story mostly about?

   A. a girl studies turtles in a lab B. a girl works to save a wetland from being paved C. a family moves near a river D. a city builds a new parking lot

2. **Detail:** What did the city plan to build?

   A. a bridge B. a shopping mall C. a parking lot over the wetland D. a new school

3. **Detail:** What did Mai learn about wetlands?

   A. They are dangerous. B. They absorb floodwater. C. They have no animals. D. They cause floods.

4. **Vocabulary:** A petition is...

   A. a newspaper article B. a type of map C. a council meeting D. a written request signed by many people

5. **Sequence:** What happened after Mai spoke at the meeting?

   A. The council built the parking lot. B. It began to flood. C. Mai left the meeting. D. A council member suggested building on a different lot.

6. **Inference:** Why was Mai's argument about floodwater convincing?

ANSWER KEY

A Voice for the River: Comprehension (answers)

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   D. A council member suggested building on a different lot.

6. **Inference:** Why was Mai's argument about floodwater convincing?
   The neighborhood had flooded before, and paving the wetland would send water into basements.