Name: Date: Score: / 6

The Science Fair Disaster: Comprehension

Fiction story · about 265 words

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

🧪 The Science Fair Disaster

Marcus had spent three weeks building his science fair project: a model volcano that showed how different amounts of baking soda changed the size of an eruption. He had a chart, photos of every trial, and a poster with neat bubble letters.

The morning of the fair, his little sister Bella tripped over the cord of the hair dryer and knocked the volcano off the table. It cracked into four pieces. Marcus stared at the mess, then at Bella, whose eyes were filling with tears.

His first instinct was to yell. He felt the words rising in his throat. But Bella was only six, and she looked more upset than he was.

"It's okay," he said slowly, though it wasn't. "Help me pick up the pieces."

There was no time to rebuild. Marcus grabbed a plastic bottle from the recycling bin and his notebook. At the fair, he set up his poster with the broken volcano pieces in front. When the judges came, he explained his experiment, showed them his data, and then did a live demonstration using the bottle. "The volcano was just the costume," he said. "The science is the same."

The judges asked hard questions about his variables, and Marcus knew every answer because he had done every trial himself. He didn't win first place, but he earned second and a special note from one judge: "Excellent understanding of the scientific method."

At home, Bella handed him a card she'd made. It showed a volcano with a crown on top. Inside, in wobbly letters, it said, "Sorry. You are the best scientist."

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

   A. a family visits a real volcano B. a teacher builds a model C. a girl wins the science fair

   D. a boy handles a ruined project calmly and still succeeds

2. **Detail:** What did Marcus's project show?

   A. how plants need sunlight B. how volcanoes form underground C. how to grow crystals

   D. how different amounts of baking soda changed the eruption

3. **Detail:** How did the volcano break?

   A. Marcus dropped it at school. B. It exploded. C. Bella tripped over a cord and knocked it off the table.

   D. The dog chewed it.

4. **Character:** How did Marcus feel at first when the volcano broke?

   A. angry, but he controlled it B. relieved C. happy D. bored

5. **Inference:** Why could Marcus answer the judges' hard questions?

   A. He had done every trial himself. B. The questions were easy. C. He memorized a book.

   D. His teacher told him the answers.

6. **Inference:** What did Marcus mean by "The volcano was just the costume"?

ANSWER KEY

The Science Fair Disaster: Comprehension (answers)

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   The model was just decoration; the real science was his experiment and data.