Name: Date: Score: / 6

The Secret of Willow Creek: Comprehension

Fiction story · about 250 words

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

🔍 The Secret of Willow Creek

Something strange was happening at Willow Creek. For the third time that month, the water had turned a cloudy brown, and Jasmine found two dead fish floating near the bridge. Her science teacher, Mr. Brennan, said a creek could get muddy after heavy rain. But it hadn't rained in eleven days.

Jasmine decided to investigate. With her friend Oliver, she walked upstream along the bank every afternoon, testing the water with a kit Mr. Brennan lent them. Near the bridge, the water was murky and the kit showed high levels of sediment. A half mile upstream, the water was clear.

"So whatever is happening," Jasmine said, "is happening between here and there."

They mapped every pipe, ditch, and path along that stretch. On Thursday, they noticed fresh tire tracks leading through a gap in the trees. Following them, they discovered a construction site for new houses. Huge piles of bare dirt sat right at the edge of the creek. There was no fence or barrier to stop the soil from washing in. Each afternoon, a water truck sprayed the piles to keep down the dust, and muddy water streamed straight into Willow Creek.

Jasmine and Oliver took photos, recorded their water test results, and presented everything to the town council. The construction company was required to install silt fences, barriers made of fabric that trap soil but let water through.

Two weeks later, Jasmine tested the water near the bridge. It was clear. A small school of minnows darted past her boots.

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

   A. two friends get lost in the woods B. a teacher takes a class fishing

   C. two students investigate why a creek is polluted D. a town builds new houses

2. **Inference:** Why did Jasmine doubt that rain caused the muddy water?

   A. It had not rained in eleven days. B. Mr. Brennan said so. C. It was winter. D. The creek was too deep.

3. **Detail:** What did the water test kit show near the bridge?

   A. high levels of sediment B. high levels of salt C. no fish D. the water was perfectly clean

4. **Sequence:** What did they discover after following the tire tracks?

   A. a garbage dump B. a factory C. a construction site with dirt piles by the creek D. a farm with cows

5. **Vocabulary:** Silt fences are...

   A. metal walls that block water B. fabric barriers that trap soil but let water through

   C. fences around houses D. fishing nets

6. **Inference:** What evidence did Jasmine and Oliver use to convince the town council?

ANSWER KEY

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photos and water test results