Amara clicked pause on the video and ran to the craft drawer in the kitchen.

“What are you doing?” Amelia asked her.

“I need supplies to make this doll tree house I saw online,” Amara said, digging through the drawer and taking out the glue stick, scissors, ribbon, and popsicle sticks.

“You’re making a tree house for your dolls?” Amelia asked.

“Yeah, there’s a step-by-step tutorial online. It shouldn’t be too hard to do.” Amara took her supplies and headed back to the computer in the living room. She pressed play on the video and tried to keep up with the woman on the screen as she assembled the tree house.

Amelia watched over Amara’s shoulder. “This looks pretty tough, Amara. Don’t be upset if your tree house doesn’t come out exactly like that one.”

“Why wouldn’t it? I’m following the directions.” Amara kept working.

“Okay. Let me know if you want any help.”

“I’ve got this,” Amara insisted.

Amelia shrugged and left the room.

Two hours later, Amara stared at her tree house. “I don’t get it.”

“What?” Amelia asked, walking back into the living room.
“I did everything the woman said, but my tree house isn’t as smooth as hers. There’s this bump here, and the newspaper left wrinkles on this side.” Amara slumped back on the couch. “I wasted my afternoon for nothing.”

Amelia leaned down, examining the tree house. “What if you drew some lines here to make these wrinkles look like tree bark? And this bump could be a knot in the tree.”

“But the tutorial didn’t show either of those things,” Amara complained.

“So? Why does your tree house have to be exactly the same? Make it unique. I bet you can come up with creative things.”

“And if I make vines down this side, it would cover the wrinkles and give my dolls something to swing on. It can be a jungle tree house,” Amara said. She smiled at her sister. “You’re right, Amelia. I’m glad my tree house didn’t come out like the one in the video. It’s better.”

About the Author

Kelly Hashway’s picture book, Melinda’s Museum Magic, is now available!

Melinda is taking her first trip to the museum, and her mother promises it will be magical. But when the exhibits start coming to life in ways that only Melinda can see, she’ll learn the real magic of the museum.

1. What is Amara making?
   a. a tree house for her friends
   b. a tree house for her doll
   c. a fort to play in
   d. a dog house

2. Where did Amara learn how to make her project?
   a. her sister Amelia
   b. a book
   c. an instruction manual
   d. an online tutorial

3. Please log in or register to download the printable version of this worksheet.

4. Why did Amara feel that she wasted her afternoon?

   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

5. How did Amelia help to change Amara's attitude about her project? What happened as a result of this?

   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
Match each vocabulary word on the left with the correct definition on the right. Write the letter on the line provided.

1. _____ slumped  a. raised and lowered your shoulders

2. _____ unique  b. looking closely or carefully

3.  

4.  

5. _____ examining  e. sat or leaned in a bent over position

6. _____ shrugged  f. connected or put together parts of something

7. _____ hollow  g. step-by-step process that teaches a person how to do something

❖ Now try this: Find all of the words above in the story and highlight them.
In the story, “Design Flaws,” Amara was trying to make a doll tree house that was exactly like the woman’s on the tutorial. When Amara’s did not turn out the same, she was very upset until her sister helped her realize that: “Sometimes design flaws lead to more creative things.”

Has there ever been a time in your life when you began a project and realized it wasn’t turning out the way that you had planned? How did you feel? What did you do to change it?
1. What is Amara making?
   b. a tree house for her doll
   a. a tree house for her friend
   c. a fort to play in
   d. a dog house

2. Where did Amara learn how to make her project?
   d. an online tutorial
   a. her sister, Amelia
   b. a book
   c. an instruction manual

3. Circle three words that describe how Amara was feeling after working on her project for two hours.
   happy
   frustrated
   upset
   proud
   annoyed
   excited
   worried
   cheerful

4. Why did Amara feel that she wasted her afternoon?
   Amara felt that she wasted her afternoon because even though she followed all the instructions on the tutorial her tree house did not turn out like the one on the video, and to Amara, that meant it was a failure.

5. How did Amelia help to change Amara’s attitude about her project? What happened as a result of this?
   Amelia helped to change Amara’s attitude about her project by helping her to realize that even though her project didn’t look exactly like the one in the tutorial it was still good in its own unique way. After that Amara realized that she could build upon the idea of the doll tree house instead of copying it exactly. She then turned her “errors” into new ideas and her doll tree house became a unique jungle tree house.
Match each vocabulary word on the left with the correct definition on the right. Write the letter on the line provided.

1. **e** slumped
   - **a.** raised and lowered your shoulders

2. **c** unique
   - **b.** looking closely or carefully

3. **f** assembled
   - **c.** very special or unusual

4. **g** tutorial
   - **d.** having nothing inside

5. **b** examining
   - **e.** sat or leaned in a bent over position

6. **a** shrugged
   - **f.** connected or put together parts of something

7. **d** hollow
   - **g.** step-by-step process that teaches a person how to do something

⚠️ Now try this: Find all of the words above in the story and highlight them.