

Name: _____



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On elementary school days, things were a little hectic. Maybe even chaotic. But everyone seemed to be having fun, and isn't that the point?

Near the Climbing Caterpillar, some students noticed a stack of papers that someone had tried to throw out but had missed the garbage can. They were now strewn across the ground.

"Oh yeah, litter!" shouted Jesse, who started kicking the garbage around, making even more of a mess.

"We can't play over here with

friends by the arms and pulled them away.

Hugo, one of the older students, started bossing some of his younger classmates to pick up the mess. "I won't give you a turn in kickball if you don't clean this up!" he yelled, pointing to the garbage. Sullen with sunken shoulders, the small students dragged their feet over to pick up the trash, while Hugo threw his head back and laughed.

Nearby, Emma and her friends, Ari and Gabby, were watching. Ari felt bad for the bullied students,

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but didn't want to ruffle feathers. Gabby considered suggesting the three girls help with the clean-up, but didn't want her friends to think she was telling them what to do. While these thoughts churned, Emma got up.

"Oh, come on, let's go. It'll take two minutes," she said to her friends, who looked at each other, shrugged in concurrence, and followed.

"What are you doing?!" cried Angel from the slide. "You didn't



Hugo was the only one not playing. Emma approached him



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"Rebound!" and slammed it in the can. This drew several smirks.

A couple of other students standing nearby joined in the clean-up. Emma tossed one a crumpled paper, they passed it to the next person, who passed it to a third, who dunked it.

"Oh, that was fast. Let's see if we can do it faster!" They lined up, relayed the paper, and tossed it in. Pretty soon, the students made two lines, and groups of three stepped up to race each other. Even Ari, Gabby, and Angel joined in.

"Think you can sink it from here?" She heaved hers toward the can and missed. Hugo smiled.

Hugo bent down, picked up a sheet of paper, and threw it as hard as he could. The paper uncrumpled, got caught in the wind, and fluttered to the ground just a few feet away. He and Emma looked at the paper, then at each other. They burst out laughing.

"Ok, we need a BIG relay line to make it from here!" said Emma, who a lot of students viewed a little differently after that day.

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Emma Steps Up

By Dan Greco



1. Which best describes the main theme of the story "Emma Steps Up"?

- a. friendship
- b. leadership
- c. loneliness
- d. perseverance

2. How did Emma encourage the other students to help clean up?

3. Which line from the story best shows that Emma's actions encouraged other

A cartoon superhero with brown hair, wearing a blue suit with a red cape and a shield-shaped emblem on his chest with the letters 'MJS'. He is flying through a blue sky with white clouds, holding a red object in his right hand.

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4. How did Emma demonstrate leadership throughout the story?

5. Why do you think students "viewed Emma a little differently" after she encouraged everyone to clean up?

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Emma Steps Up

Fill in the missing letters to create a word from the story.
Then, write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell
each word correctly.



1. ___ u ___ l ___ n

clue: gloomily or resentfully silent

2. c ___ n ___ r r ___ n ___

clue: agreement or union in action



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5. ___ m ___ k ___

clue: smiles that show smug, condescending, or self-satisfied attitudes

6. c h ___ r ___ d

clue: agitated

7. ___ e r ___ e ___ e d

clue: confused

8. s ___ n

clue: spread by scattering

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Emma Steps Up

In the story, "Emma Stands Up," Emma demonstrates that leadership is a strength of hers.

Is leadership a strength of yours? Write about a time when you were a leader.



A cartoon superhero character with brown hair, wearing a blue suit with a red cape and a red mask. He is flying through the air, leaving a white trail behind him. A blue shield with the letters 'STW' is on his chest.

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ANSWER KEY

Emma Steps Up

By Dan Greco



1. Which best describes the main theme of the story "Emma Steps Up"?
 - a. friendship
 - b. leadership**
 - c. loneliness
 - d. perseverance
2. How did Emma encourage the other students to help clean up?



Answers may vary. An example is: they may have viewed her differently

because she stepped up to do what was right, even when others didn't.

ANSWER KEY

Emma Steps Up

Fill in the missing letters to create a word from the story.
Then, write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell
each word correctly.



1. s u l l e n

sullen

clue: gloomily or resentfully silent

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clue: spread by scattering