

Name: _____

The Broken Birds

By Dan Greco



Rain hammered against the window, mirroring the gloom Sarah felt. Her art project, a clay bird, had been accidentally knocked off the table. "It's hopeless," she mumbled, staring at the pile of broken pieces. "I'll never fix it or finish a new one for the art show."



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the pieces." This hopeful image kept her from giving up.

Tom, convinced it was a lost cause, spent the next few days playing games. He didn't even look at his own project.

Sarah, however, carefully sorted the broken clay. She decided to create a mosaic, using the shattered pieces to form a colorful, textured bird. She worked slowly and patiently, picturing the final result.

The day of the art show arrived. Sarah's mosaic bird, colorful and unique, stood proudly on display. People stopped to admire its detail. Tom, his own project unfinished, stared in disbelief.

Sarah's hope, her belief that even broken things could become beautiful, had guided her. She learned that hope wasn't just wishing; it was believing in a positive possibility, and that belief could lead to actual change. It made a difference.

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1. Choose the best theme for this story. Then give two details from the text that support the theme on the lines below.

a. kindness b. trust c. hope d. jealousy



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- d. "'Maybe,' she thought, 'I can make something new from the pieces.' This hopeful image kept her from giving up."
3. What was the author's purpose for writing this text?
- a. to teach the reader how to make a mosaic bird
 - b. to teach the reader the value of hopefulness
 - c. to teach the reader that there are many ways to make art
 - d. to teach the reader the value of being patient
4. Tom was in the same situation as Sarah. How did Tom react differently than Sarah? How could Tom have changed his reaction to have a more positive outcome?

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



1. t t e



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4. _ _ _ m p _ d
clue: fell or sunk down suddenly

5. s _ a _ _ e _ _ _
clue: broke at once into pieces

6. _ d _ _ r _
clue: to feel respect and approval

7. f _ i _ _ _ r _ d
clue: made small, quick movements

8. _ _ s _ _ c
clue: a design made by inlaying small pieces of variously colored materials

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

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In the story, Sarah shows hopefulness and creates a new, beautiful art project.

On the lines below, write about a time when something in your life went wrong. How did you react? Could the outcome have changed if you had shown more hopefulness?



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instead of upset, he could have finished his project like Sarah did.

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clue: a design made by inlaying small pieces of variously colored materials