

Name: _____ Date: _____



THEME PASSAGE #1: Max and Kai Play Ball

Read the following story and answer the questions that follow.

Max and Kai were the best of friends. They spent many hours together after school and on the weekends. One of their favorite activities was to play basketball together. Kai had a perfect hoop outside his house on the driveway, so they spent much of their time shooting hoops at Kai's house.

"Where is the basketball?" Max asked one day when he was over at Kai's house.

"There are two basketballs in the garage, let's go!" replied Kai.

The boys organized a competition. Whoever could make the most baskets out of ten shots won a round. They used paper to keep track of who won each round and decided that the ultimate loser would have to write a love note to Claire, the cutest girl in 5th grade. After they played six rounds and were tied in the competition, Kai's mom called them in for dinner. Frustrated that they couldn't continue playing, Kai hurled the ball down the street. It traveled in the gutter over a block away down his steep hill.

"I'll get it later," shouted Kai, as he threw his arm up in the air.

After dinner, they grabbed the other ball from the garage and continued their competition. They played a few more rounds, knowing that the winner would be determined at the end of their play time. When Max's mom arrived to pick him up, they were still tied and agreed that they would finish later. They waved goodbye and left the ball on the front yard.

Giggling as they gazed at Claire the next day in class, Max and Kai agreed that they would continue their competition to determine a winner.

"I can't wait to see what your love letter says!" Kai taunted Max.

"She's going to fall in love with you after she reads YOUR letter," Max laughed.

When they got to Kai's house and started looking for a ball, they couldn't find one.

"What happened to the balls?" Max inquired.

"We left one on the front lawn, but I don't see it now," replied Kai.

They took a walk down the street to find the ball that had rolled down the street. There was no ball in sight.

"How did we lose two balls?" Kai said, shaking his head.

The boys went inside the house to ask Kai's mom if she could go and buy a new ball for them to use.

"What happened to the balls in the garage?" she asked.

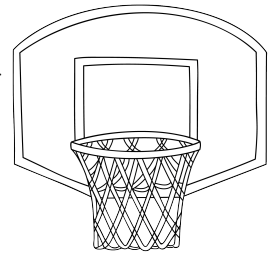
"Well, I think they got lost or stolen or something," Kai mumbled.

"If you had any money, you could buy another basketball," his mom replied, "but I won't be buying a basketball for you."

"How can we make some money?" they asked.

Max and Kai spent the next two hours raking the lawn and pulling weeds. When it was time for Max to leave, they had only earned \$8.00 of the \$24.00 they needed to buy a new basketball. Instead of playing ball for the next week, they worked in the yard and did chores around the house until they earned enough money to purchase a new ball.

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Let's Talk About: THEME PASSAGE #1
Title of Passage: Max and Kai Play Ball

1. Write a brief summary of Max and Kai Play Ball.

2. What is one possible theme (written as a sentence) for this passage?

3. What evidence from Max and Kai Play Ball supports that theme?

4. How can you apply this theme to your own life?
