Name _____ Date _____

Finding the Theme of *a* Story

Theme = the story's message about life, in *a* sentence. Look at the problem, the response and what the character learns.

A. Read the story.

The Broken Kite

Eli borrowed his sister's new kite without asking and crashed it into a fence. The frame snapped. He hid it under his bed and said nothing.

All week, Eli felt sick inside every time his sister searched for her kite. Finally, he pulled it out and told her the truth. "I'm sorry," he said. "I'll use my savings to fix it."

His sister was upset, but she said, "Thanks for telling me." That weekend, they fixed the kite together, and Eli felt lighter than he had all week.

B. Fill in the organizer.

1. Problem: _____
2. How Eli responds at first: _____
3. What he does in the end: _____
4. What he learns: _____
5. Theme: _____

C. Write T for theme or P for topic.

1. friendship _____
2. Real friends help each other. _____
3. honesty _____
4. Telling the truth builds trust. _____
5. Hard work pays off. _____
6. courage _____

D. Match the story to its theme.

1. The Lion and the Mouse • • Keep trying and you can succeed.
2. The Tortoise and the Hare • • Kindness can come back to you.
3. The Boy Who Cried Wolf • • Liars lose people's trust.

Answer Key

B. Fill in the organizer.

1. **he broke his sister's kite** 2. **he hides it and says nothing** 3. **he tells the truth and offers to fix it** 4. **telling the truth feels better than hiding it** 5. **Being honest, even when it's hard, is the right thing to do.**

C. Write T for theme or P for topic.

1. **P** 2. **T** 3. **P** 4. **T** 5. **T** 6. **P**

D. Match the story to its theme.

1. **Kindness can come back to you.** 2. **Keep trying and you can succeed.** 3. **Liars lose people's trust.**