

Realistic
Fiction

Fixing the Playground

by Jacqui Briggs
illustrated by Jomike Tejido



Mc
Graw
Hill

PAIRED
READ

Hero

STRATEGIES & SKILLS

Comprehension

Strategy: Summarize

Skill: Point of View

Phonics

Diphthongs *ou, ow*

Vocabulary Strategy

Suffixes

Vocabulary

champions, determined,
issues, promise,
responsibility, right,
volunteer, vote

Content Standards

Social Studies

Civics/Government

Word count: 565**

**The total word count is based on words in the running text and headings only. Numerals and words in captions, labels, diagrams, charts, and sidebars are not included.



Essential Question

What do good citizens do?

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READ**

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Josh Has a Problem

Josh saw the swings and wanted to play. But Dad said, "Josh, the swings are broken. It is not safe."

"I want to play," cried Josh. "I want to play!"



“Calm down, Josh,” said Mom quietly. “Dad is right. This playground is just not safe.”

Josh kept on yelling and fussing. The family went home sadly. Their walk was over.





Josh's brother Max said, "Josh ruined our walk with his crying!"

His sister Jordan said, "He is little. Give him a break."

"I guess I don't blame him," said Max. "That playground is a mess. We need a better place to play."



“People should take responsibility for playgrounds. They should keep them clean. The city should fix the broken swings,” said Jordan.

STOP AND CHECK

What was the problem with the swings?

Planning

“Dad, can’t we get someone to clean that place up?” asked Max.

“Who did you have in mind?”
Dad answered.

“How about calling the mayor?”
asked Max.

“The mayor? I think he is busy
with other issues,” Jordan said.



“We could try doing something ourselves,” Mom suggested.

“It will take forever!” said Max.

“Not if we get others to help,” replied Jordan.

“I’ll call the mayor’s office tomorrow,” said Dad. “He will determine if we are allowed to do this.”



The next day, Dad shared the good news. "We have the right to get people to volunteer. I'll need a permit from the mayor's office. We can also get a small amount of money for supplies."

"Great! The mayor gets my vote!" said Jordan. "Let's make a plan."





“We’ll make a sign. What should we write on it?” asked Max.

“We should ask for helpers,” said Jordan. “And we should tell where and when.”

“Yes, and some people could donate tools like rakes or trash bags,” added Max.

Later, they taped the finished sign to a street post. "I think it is too low, Max," said Jordan. "Let's move it up."

"Not too much," said Max. "We want kids to see it."



We need
HELP!

Come help at the

**Roscoe
Street
Playground**

on **Saturday**
the 10th

Can you donate
tools or supplies?

Their next door neighbor, Bobby, walked by. Dad asked, "Bobby, can you help us out?"

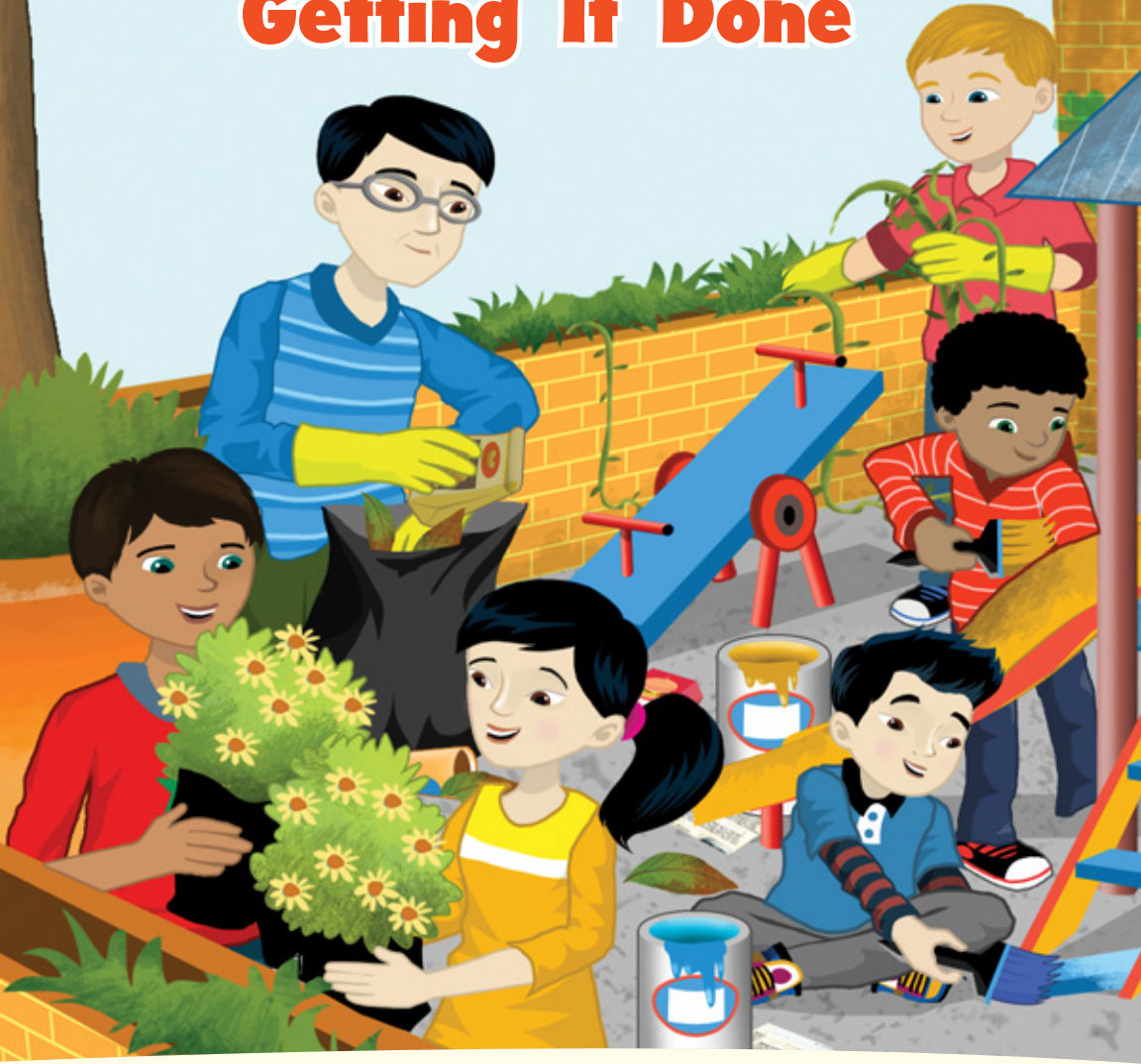
"Yes," said Bobby. "Kids need a safe place to play. My family and I will let people know." He made a promise to help.



STOP AND CHECK

What is the family's plan?

Getting It Done



That weekend, many volunteers came to the playground. So many people wanted to help!



Jordan sang, "We are champions of the playground. We'll fix it all around!" Others joined in. The helpers made the job easy.

In a few days, the work was done. The playground looked great! Everyone felt good about helping. And now, Josh could use the swing!





Respond to Reading

Summarize

Use the chart to summarize *Fixing the Playground*

Character	Clue	Point of View

Text Evidence

1. Did the events in *Fixing the Playground* really happen? **Genre**
2. What made Josh upset during the family's walk? **Point of View**
3. Look at page 3. Which words have suffixes? **Suffixes**
4. Write about how Josh feels at the end. **Write About Reading**

Compare Texts

Read about a boy who is a good citizen in real life.

HERO



Police officers can help
in an emergency.

It was a cold night. Mom and her three kids were almost home. Suddenly, their truck rolled over. It was an emergency!

The truck stopped. Seven-year-old Titus and his two little sisters were safe. But Mom had been thrown from the truck. Titus called to her. She did not answer.

Titus had to get help, but the door was stuck. So he crawled through the window. He could not find Mom. But he could see lights. He told his sisters that he was going for help and would be back.



In An Emergency

1. Stay calm.
2. Ask an adult you know for help.
3. Call 911.

Titus wasn't wearing a coat or shoes, but he ran and ran. After running for half a mile, he found a farm. Workers there called 9-1-1.

Titus' mom is all right now, but only because Titus ran for help. Titus is a hero because he knew what to do in an emergency.



Make Connections

What did Titus do that shows he is a good citizen? **Essential Question**

How are Titus and Max good citizens? **Text to Text**

Focus on Social Studies

Purpose To learn about jobs that involve helping others

What to Do

Step 1

Ask a family member about his or her job.

.....

Step 2

Ask how this person helps others at work. Have the person share a memory about helping others.

.....

Step 3

Work with a partner. Talk about how your family member helps others.

Fiction

Thinkmark

Setting

Where does *Fixing the Playground* take place? When does it take place?

Characters

Do you think Titus in *Hero* did the right thing? Why do you think so?

Sequence of Events

What happens in *Fixing the Playground*?

Make Connections

Do these stories remind you of any person or thing in your life? Explain.