

Realistic
Fiction

Problem Solved

by Frederica Brown
illustrated by Janet McDonnell



Mc
Graw
Hill

PAIRED
READ

Poetry

STRATEGIES & SKILLS

Comprehension

Strategy: Reread

Skill: Point of View

Vocabulary

bounce, imagine, inventor,
observers

Vocabulary Strategy

Similes

Word count: 856



Essential Question

How do people figure things out?

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Nothing to Do

"I'm bored," said Sarah.

"Me, too," said Toby. "There's nothing to do here. Why did we move? There was so much to do in our old town."

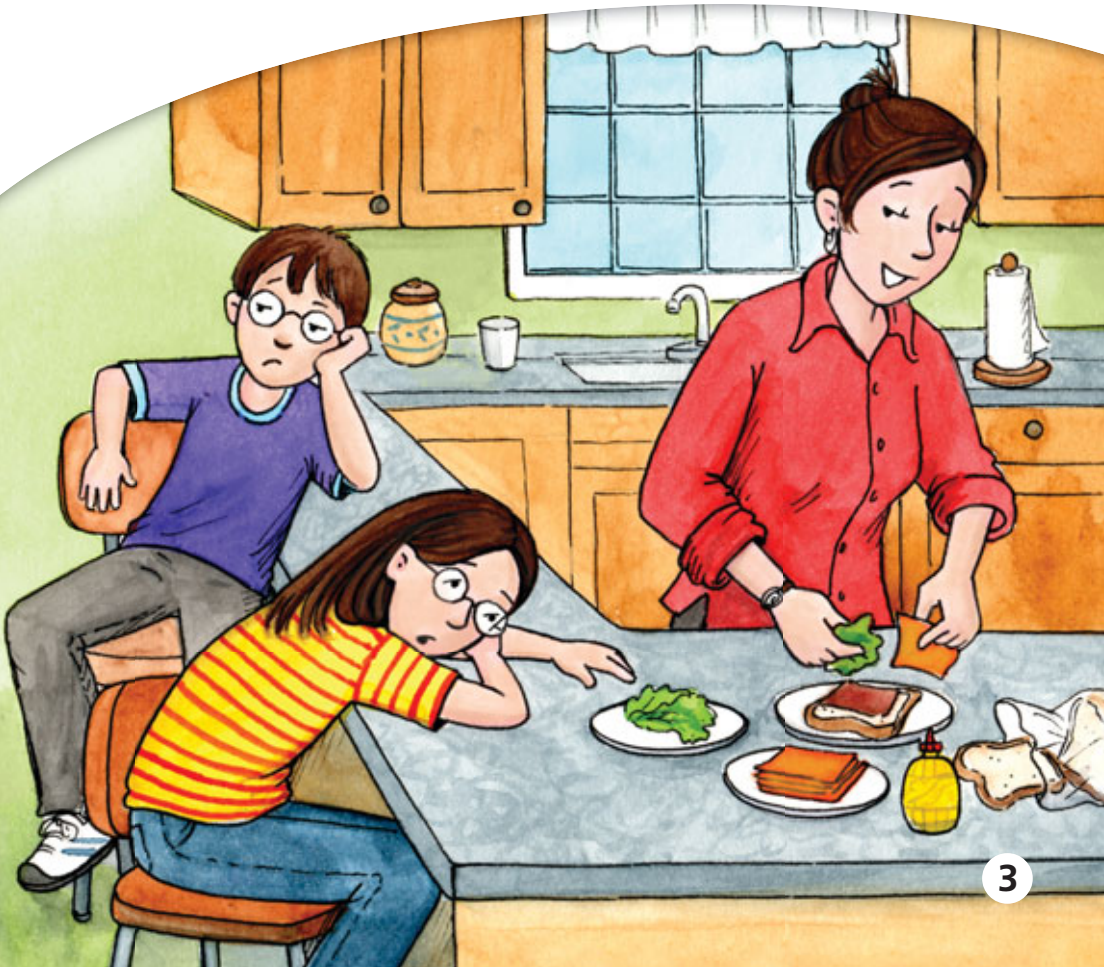
"Why don't you two join a club of some kind?" asked Mom. "Maybe a sports club, or a recreation club. You'll make new friends."

"We thought of that already, Mom," said Sarah.

"But there isn't anything in this neighborhood!" said Toby.

"Then what about starting a club yourselves?" suggested Mom. "I imagine that there must be a lot of kids who'd like to join. You can decide what kind of club you want. Then you can look for somewhere to meet."

"That's a great idea," said Toby. Sarah nodded in agreement.



At school the next day, Toby and Sarah approached the class presidents, Mike and Heather. They explained their idea.

Mike and Heather like the idea. They called a meeting at lunchtime.

“Raise your hand if you are bored on the weekends,” said Sarah.

Everyone raised their hand.

“We want to start a club,” said Toby. “If you’d like to join, write your name on this list. Tell us what you’d like to do at the club, too.”





By the end of the meeting, they had a list of 20 kids. Everyone had ideas for the club. Mike wanted a place to play basketball. Heather talked about an inline skating group. Other kids wanted a place to watch movies.

After the meeting, Sarah, Toby, Mike, and Heather talked some more. They decided to ask the mayor if there was a place they could use for the club.

"We're going to need adult help for this," said Mike.

"Our mom said she would help," said Sarah. "We'll ask her."



"We're also going to need adults to help us run it," said Mike. "We can't drive, for one thing."

"Maybe some other parents will volunteer, too," said Heather. "I'm sure my dad would help run things."



STOP AND CHECK

What did the meeting show?

Making It Happen

Toby and Sarah asked their mother to help. So she set up a meeting with the mayor. Heather's dad agreed to help run the club. He also looked for more volunteers to help.

Toby, Sarah, Mike, and Heather started a petition. Their petition called for a local recreation club.





“We have to get as many people to sign as we can,” said Toby. “Then we’ll present it to the mayor.”

Before and after school, the four children waited outside the school. They asked everyone who came by to sign their petition.

In a week, every kid in school had signed the petition. So had just about every parent and teacher. Everyone thought it was a fantastic idea.

“Good work, kids,” said Toby and Sarah’s mom as they sipped cold drinks after school. “Our meeting with the mayor is tomorrow. Make sure you bring the petition!”

“We won’t forget that,” said Sarah. “We’re proud that we got so many people to sign it.”





Toby, Sarah, their mom, Mike, and Heather went to the meeting in the mayor's office. The mayor introduced herself. She invited them to sit down.

Toby and Sarah's mom explained their idea for a recreation club. The children kept quiet.

"We'll just be observers," whispered Heather. "And I'll report back to my dad."

STOP AND CHECK

Why did the four children start a petition?



"It's a good idea," said the mayor.
"We need a recreation club in our neighborhood. There's a building at the basketball courts that would be perfect."

"That would be great!" said Toby.

"Thank you very much," added Sarah, Mike, and Heather.

"There is one thing," said the mayor.
"The building needs to be cleaned up."



“We can do that!” said the children.
“It will be fun!”

“It will certainly give you something to do,” said their mom. “We’ll have a working bee. Everyone can help to clean the building.”

“I imagine you’ll need sports equipment,” said the mayor. “We’ll help with that.”

Lots to Do

After the meeting, life was very busy. The children, with their parents' help, started to raise money and plan activities.

Time rushed past like a river in flood.

The day of the working bee came. Many kids from school were there, and many of their parents, too, with mops, cloths, and brooms.





"Who was the inventor of the mop?" grumbled Mike. "I think it is time to play basketball!" He dropped the mop and picked up a new basketball.

"Bounce it to me!" said Toby.

"You're supposed to be helping!" said Heather.

"We may still have to finish cleaning," said Sarah. "But we've solved the problem of having nothing to do!"

STOP AND CHECK

Why did the children organize a working bee?

Respond to Reading

Summarize

Summarize *Problem Solved*.
Use details from your chart to help you.

Details

↓

Point of View

Text Evidence

1. What kind of fiction is *Problem Solved*? What tells you this? **Genre**
2. Whose point of view is *Problem Solved* told from? **Point of View**
3. Look on page 14. What does the author compare to a river? **Similes**
4. How did the characters in *Problem Solved* feel at the beginning of the story? How did they feel at the end? **Write About Reading**

Compare Texts

Read how Bradley solves the problem of being bored.

Rainy Day



I looked out the window
The rain came down
I looked out the window
My face had a frown.

I was bored
I was behaving badly.
My dad said, "Bradley,
Find something to do!"

He said, "Watch TV
Or play cards with me!"
But I was bored
I was behaving badly
There was nothing
I wanted to do.

Then it was clear
I had an idea
I had a thought
I'd make a fort!

Blankets and boxes
Bedclothes and baskets
Cushions and chairs
All stacked by the stairs



The fort was ready
The walls stood steady
I'm safe inside
Safe as a soldier
With Dad by my side.



Make Connections

What was Bradley's problem in *Rainy Day*? How did he solve it? **Essential Question**

How is Bradley in the poem like the characters in *Problem Solved*? **Text to Text**

Focus on Literary Elements

Rhyme Poems often use literary elements such as *rhyme* and *alliteration*.

Rhyme is the repetition of a similar sound at the end of two or more words. An example of rhyme is, *We'll meet you, At the zoo*. Alliteration is the repetition of the consonant at the beginning of two or more words that are next to one another. An example is, *a wet, windy, and wild day*.

Read and Find The poem *Rainy Day* is written in rhyme. Find the rhymes. Can you find an example of alliteration?

Your Turn

Choose a subject and write your own poem. Try to make it rhyme.

Thinkmark

Characters

Who are the main characters in *Problem Solved*?

Who are the other characters?

Setting

Where is the story *Problem Solved* set?

Plot

What was Toby and Sarah's problem in the story?

How did they solve it?

Conclusions

What can you say about Toby and Sarah?