COMPLETE STORY + QUIZ

Nina and the Leaky Water Wheel

Nina and the Leaky Water Wheel | Suggested ages 5-6



Nina improves a small water wheel by finding where water escapes before it can push the paddles.

Read, talk, and discover

The complete story is followed by questions and a separate answer guide. Read aloud together, pause to talk, and take your time.

Print on US Letter at actual size, or choose Fit for A4. Use single-sided printing for activity cards. Black-and-white printing is suitable.

Part 1

Nina built a small water wheel for the garden table. She poured water above it, but the wheel barely turned.

Part 2

Most water splashed around the sides instead of landing on the paddles. Nina placed a towel under the table and watched carefully.

Part 3

Her first idea was to pour faster. The bigger splash made a mess, while the wheel moved only a tiny bit.

Part 4

Nina rolled waterproof paper into a narrow spout. The spout guided one steady stream toward the top paddle.

Part 5

The wheel turned halfway, then stopped. Nina found one paddle hanging loose, and an adult helped her fasten it with waterproof tape.

Part 6

She poured the same cup of water through the spout again. This time, each paddle caught the stream and pushed the wheel onward.

Part 7

Nina counted seven full turns. She marked the best spout position with tape so she could repeat the test later.

Part 8

Nina learned to change one part, observe the result, and test again. Less splashing gave the water more useful pushing power.

Draw, tell, or write

Draw your favorite part of the story. Tell a grown-up what happened before it and what happened next.

My favorite part, and why I chose it

STORY QUIZ

Think about the story

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Read each question and all the choices. Circle one answer. A grown-up can read aloud; you can point or say your answer, too.

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1. Why did Nina's water wheel barely turn?

A. The water was purple	B. The table was too quiet	C. Water splashed around the paddles

Tell someone how you decided, or write a few words.

2. What happened when Nina poured faster?

A. The splash grew but the wheel barely moved	B. The wheel flew away	C. The water became warm

Tell someone how you decided, or write a few words.

3. What did the narrow spout do?

A. It dried the towel	B. It guided a steady stream to the top paddle	C. It counted the wheel turns

Tell someone how you decided, or write a few words.

Questions 4 to 5

4. What stopped the wheel after half a turn?

A. A leaf covered the table	B. The cup was too colorful	C. One paddle was loose

Tell someone how you decided, or write a few words.

5. What testing habit did Nina learn?

A. Change one part, observe, and test again	B. Change everything at once	C. Stop after the first try

Tell someone how you decided, or write a few words.

ANSWER GUIDE

For the grown-up

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Keep this page separate from the child's activity. Read directions aloud when helpful, and invite the child to explain their ideas.

1. C - Water splashed around the paddles

Water splashed around the paddles

2. A - The splash grew but the wheel barely moved

The splash grew but the wheel barely moved

3. B - It guided a steady stream to the top paddle

It guided a steady stream to the top paddle

4. C - One paddle was loose

One paddle was loose

5. A - Change one part, observe, and test again

Change one part, observe, and test again

Keep exploring

Draw your favorite part of the story. Tell a grown-up what happened before it and what happened next.