Learning About Laurel

Directions: In the story “Lost and Found,” the author does not always tell you how characters feel or why they act the way they do. Instead, you must use text clues to make inferences. Read each set of lines from the story. Think about the questions in small type on the sides. Then make an inference to answer each question in bold.

1. Think about these lines from page 6:

   “I used to always drink my orange juice out of the same chipped sailboat mug—one my grandma had bought the first summer she and my grandpa came to Hatteras. This morning, I’d gulped my juice out of a plain, clear glass. It hadn’t tasted as good.”

   Why did Laurel like drinking out of her grandmother's mug? How does she feel without it?

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2. Look at these lines on page 7:

   “But,’ Trevor paused, ‘nobody knows where we found it. Think about it, Laurel. If this coin really is an escudo, something old and rare, it would be worth money. Like, thousands. Maybe—maybe even enough to fix the cottage.’”

   What problem is the family facing? How important is the problem to Trevor? Explain.

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Name: ____________________________   Date: ____________

Core Skills Workout

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3. Now, think about these lines on page 8:

“He never found anything valuable or historical, and he hunted for treasure only where it was allowed.

Trevor went back to raking his hands through the sand.

Only moments later, he let out a whoop. ‘I found another!’

I didn’t know why, but my heart sank a little.”

What does Laurel think of Trevor’s solution? Why might she be upset?

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4. Now think about the end of the story:

“‘I want to fix the cottage just as bad as you do, but . . .’ I said.

Trevor gave me a sad smile. ‘It’s just too bad, you know?’

How some stuff gets lost.’

I held out my hand and helped my brother stand up. Coins fell around his feet. We stood there for a moment, looking at the pile of treasure on the sand.”

What does Laurel help Trevor realize about the treasure? What does that mean for the cottage?

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Your turn! Use your responses above to help you write a short essay answering the writing prompt on page 8:

Use clues from the story to figure out how Laurel feels about the old family cottage at first. What has she learned by the end?