

Read this selection to see how Abby's hard work is rewarded and answer the questions that follow.

Abby Takes Her Shot

by Susan M. Dyckman

A blast of the buzzer ended the game, and the Hawks had won another close one.

"Yes!" shouted Abby, leaping from the bench. Her throat hurt from cheering so hard. The Hawks were undefeated after thirteen games—the best record a Willow Grove Middle School team had ever had.

Not that Abby made much of a contribution. Her playing time totaled only about ten minutes for the entire season. It didn't help when her brother Michael teased her as she walked toward the locker room. "You're a cheerleader in a basketball uniform," he said. "All you need are pom-poms."

Abby felt Mom's eyes on her from the bleachers. Abby forced a little wave, but her eyes stung from tears. She ducked into the bathroom before joining Coach McKenzie and her teammates.

Coach was all smiles. "Girls, your defense was awesome," she said. "And Kathy, your free-throw shooting helped a lot. Nice game."

Abby felt like shouting, "My free-throw shooting could help, too—if I could just get in the game!" She thought of the hours she'd spent practicing. Foul shots, lay-ups, dribbling.

Mom said it was worth it. Abby was a fifth-grader and she'd made the team. Made it through two rounds of cuts during the tryouts. But Abby learned quickly that making the team and playing in the games were two different things. . . .

The gym was packed for Saturday's game, the last one of the season. The lead seesawed back and forth, and the Hawks' starters were breathing hard at halftime. Coach McKenzie was encouraging. "Stick to your game," she said. "Work the ball around until you get an open shot."

The crowd cheered as the second half began. Abby watched intently as the players ran up and down the court. The score remained close, and the Hawks trailed by one point in the final minute.

"Come on, Hawks," Abby breathed. A few seconds later, Kathy stole the ball and raced toward the basket. As she went up for the shot, an opponent slammed into her, knocking her to the floor. Kathy did not get up. The gym got very quiet as Coach McKenzie and the trainer checked her ankle.

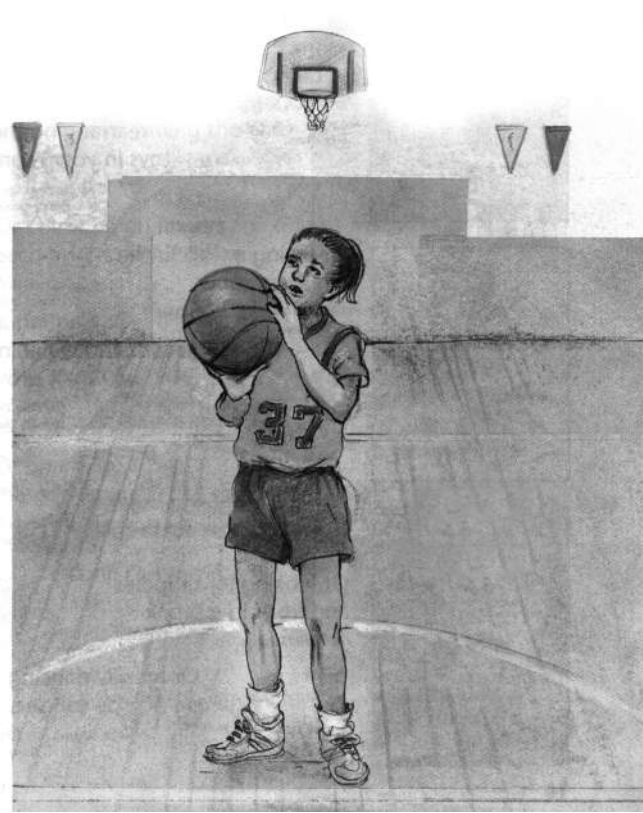
Finally, Kathy was helped to the bench. She would be all right, but she definitely was not going back into the game.

The referee came over to the bench. "Coach, you need a sub at the free-throw line. She gets two shots."

Coach looked at the players on the bench. She'd always stressed the importance of free-throw shooting. Who had paid attention? Kathy, for one. And . . . Abby. She hadn't played much this season, but she certainly could shoot.

"Abby," Coach said. "You're in."

Abby's stomach flipped. "Me?" she said. "Now?"



Coach stepped close to her. “I’ve watched you in practice,” she said. “You can do this.”

Abby jumped up, reported in at the scorer’s table, and walked to the line.

She glanced at the scoreboard. Two points and a few seconds of defense would win the game. The referee handed Abby the ball. She took a deep breath. Two bounces. She crouched and let the ball fly.

Swish.

The crowd roared.

“One more,” Abby thought. She caught the ball. Bounce, bounce. Shoot.

The gym exploded with cheers as the ball went through the hoop. Seconds later the buzzer sounded. The Hawks were undefeated. Abby’s time had come.

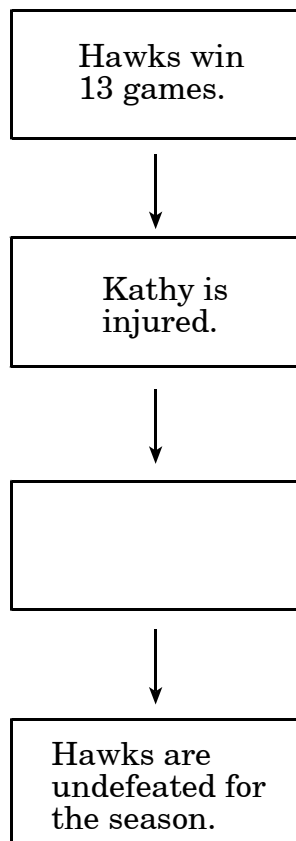
“Abby Takes Her Shot” by Susan M. Dyckman and illustrated by Susan Spellman. Copyright © 2001 by Highlights for Children, Inc., Columbus, Ohio.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. What is the setting of this selection?</p> <p>A the school gym</p> <p>B the schoolyard</p> <p>C the backyard</p> <p>D the school bleachers</p> <p>2. How did Abby feel when her brother teased her?</p> <p>A confused</p> <p>B discouraged</p> <p>C scared</p> <p>D cheerful</p> <p>3. What is the most likely reason that Abby went into the bathroom before joining her teammates in the locker room?</p> <p>A to see her mother</p> <p>B to comb her hair</p> <p>C to dry her eyes</p> <p>D to change her uniform</p> | <p>4. Why did Abby feel that her playing could help the team win?</p> <p>A She was best at dribbling the ball.</p> <p>B She had practiced shooting for many hours.</p> <p>C She had been on the team for a long time.</p> <p>D She was better at shooting than Kathy.</p> <p>5. Why did the coach choose Abby to substitute for Kathy?</p> <p>A They both played the same position.</p> <p>B Kathy asked for Abby to take her place.</p> <p>C Abby had been on the team the longest.</p> <p>D Abby was a good free-throw shooter.</p> |
|---|---|

6. What is **most likely** the author's purpose in saying, "Abby's stomach flipped"?

A to describe the game
B to show that Abby was scared
C to explain what a free-throw is
D to describe how the team felt

7. Which event belongs in the blank box?



A Abby makes the team.
B Abby practices free-throw shots.
C Abby wins the game for her team.
D Abby leaves the gym.

8. What would **most likely** happen if the story continued?

A Abby's mother would be upset.
B Abby's brother would tease her.
C Abby would play more next year.
D Abby would be made team captain.

End of Set

In compliance with federal law, including the provisions of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Department of Public Instruction does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, color, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, or military service in its policies, programs, activities, admissions or employment.

Answers to

Grade 3 Reading Comprehension Sample Items

Selection Title	Question Number	Correct Answer	Category	Thinking Skill	Objective Number
Abby Takes Her Shot	1	A	Cognition	Applying	2.02
Abby Takes Her Shot	2	B	Interpretation	Analyzing	3.01
Abby Takes Her Shot	3	C	Interpretation	Analyzing	3.01
Abby Takes Her Shot	4	B	Cognition	Knowledge	2.02
Abby Takes Her Shot	5	D	Interpretation	Analyzing	3.01
Abby Takes Her Shot	6	B	Critical Stance	Applying	3.01
Abby Takes Her Shot	7	C	Cognition	Organizing	2.04
Abby Takes Her Shot	8	C	Interpretation	Generating	2.02