

Martin's Birdhouse

by Rachelle Kreisman



Drawing a picture can be fun. Drawing can also help people communicate. Putting an idea on paper is sometimes a good way to solve a problem.

Here is an example. Martin wanted to build a new birdhouse. The last one he had built fell apart after one windy night. This time, Martin knew he had to make a stronger birdhouse. He just was not sure how to do that.

Martin asked his friend Diego for help. Diego was good at building things. Martin explained his idea about the birdhouse, but Diego was confused. So Martin drew a picture to show what he was thinking.

Diego looked at the sketch carefully. "Why does the hole for the bird need to be so big?" he asked Martin. "It doesn't," said Martin. "You're right." Diego

also suggested that the birdhouse could be attached to the tree in a much better way. He drew another picture to show Martin how that attachment would work.

After talking a while longer, Martin and Diego drew one more sketch. Then they began building the birdhouse together. "We are a good team," Martin told Diego. "I think your ideas will make my birdhouse stronger!"

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What does Martin want to build?

- A. a tree house
- B. a birdhouse
- C. a dog house

2. When in the story do Martin and Diego begin building a birdhouse together?

- A. in the middle of the story
- B. at the end of the story
- C. at the beginning of the story

3. Martin says that he and Diego are a good team.

What evidence from the story supports the idea that Martin and Diego are a good team?

- A. The last birdhouse Martin built fell apart, so he asks his friend Diego for help.
- B. Martin and Diego communicate and work together to make the birdhouse stronger.
- C. Martin explains his idea about the birdhouse to Diego, but Diego is confused.

4. What does the first picture that Martin draws probably show?

- A. a bird
- B. Diego's face
- C. a birdhouse

5. What is the theme of this story?

- A. Diego is good at building things.
- B. Drawing a picture can help people communicate.
- C. The last birdhouse Martin built fell apart after a windy night.

6. Read these sentences from the story.

"Martin explained his idea about the birdhouse, but Diego was confused. So Martin drew a picture to show what he was thinking.

"Diego looked at the sketch carefully. 'Why does the hole for the bird need to be so big?' he asked Martin."

What does the word "sketch" mean here?

- A. book
- B. picture
- C. sentence

7. Choose the answer that best completes this sentence.

Martin asks Diego for help _____ he wants to build a stronger birdhouse.

- A. so
- B. because
- C. but

8. How does Diego feel when Martin first explains his idea about the birdhouse?

9. What does Martin do to show Diego what he is thinking?

10. How can drawing help people communicate? Support your answer with evidence from the story.