



Read the fable carefully. Then answer each question below in a full sentence.

Think about what the character learned and what lesson the fable is teaching. Use details from the story to support your answers.

Elara and the Enchanted Thimble



In a bustling, old-world town, nestled between cobblestone streets and colorful market stalls, stood Master Finn's cozy cobbler workshop. The air inside always smelled of rich, new leather and warm glue. Master Finn was a diligent cobbler, known for his sturdy and beautiful shoes. His young apprentice, Elara, however, dreamed of quick success without the endless hours of stitching and hammering. She often wished for a magical shortcut to make her work disappear. One sunny afternoon, while dusting a forgotten shelf, Elara's fingers brushed against something hard and cold. Hidden beneath a pile of old scraps was a small, tarnished thimble.

Curiosity sparkling in her eyes, Elara picked it up. It looked ordinary at first, but then a faint, warm glow pulsed from its surface. She slipped the thimble onto her finger. Immediately, a needle threaded itself with golden silk, and with a gentle hum, the thimble began to stitch a tiny shoe all on its own! Elara watched in astonishment as perfect, even stitches appeared as if by magic. Her eyes widened. "This is incredible!" she whispered, her heart pounding with excitement. She quickly realized she could finish her daily tasks in minutes, leaving her free to explore the town or read her favorite fairy tales.



For a few days, Elara used the enchanted thimble wisely, completing her work with ease and still learning from Master Finn. But soon, the allure of effortless work grew too strong. She began to rely entirely on the thimble, letting it do all the work while her own focus



drifted. She would set it to stitch a heel, then wander off to daydream. The thimble, sensitive to her intentions, started to become mischievous. Instead of neat rows, it would create crooked seams, mismatched pairs, or even stitch soles onto the wrong shoes!

One morning, Master Finn discovered a batch of boots with one sole facing forward and the other backward. He held up a particularly odd pair, a frown creasing his brow. "Elara," he called, his voice gentle but firm, "what is going on with these shoes? Our customers expect quality, not... whimsical footwear!" Elara felt a flush creep up her neck. She knew the thimble was acting out because of her laziness. The magic wasn't meant to replace effort, but to enhance it.



That day, Elara made a choice. She decided to work alongside the thimble, guiding it with her own hands, focusing on every stitch, every curve, every detail. She paid close attention to Master Finn's lessons, even as the thimble hummed along. She worked harder than ever before, combining her newfound diligence with the thimble's magical speed. Slowly but surely, the shoes became perfect again, each one a testament to careful craftsmanship and magical assistance.

Master Finn noticed the change. "Your work has improved wonderfully, Elara," he praised, holding up a gleaming new boot. "You've truly found your rhythm." Elara smiled, feeling a warmth spread through her. The thimble on her finger pulsed with a steady, bright glow, no longer mischievous, but content. She had learned that true skill and lasting success come not from shortcuts or relying solely on magic, but from honest effort, dedication, and a willingness to learn.



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

(1) Who is the main character in the story, and where does she work?



(2) What magical item did Elara find, and what problem did it cause when she used it carelessly?

(3) What does the word "diligent" mean as it is used to describe Master Finn?

(4) Was Elara's initial choice to rely solely on the thimble a good one? Use a detail from the fable to support your answer.

(5) What lesson does "Elara and the Enchanted Thimble" teach? How could this lesson help you in real life?

