



# Follow the Money

Grade 4

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Read the passage carefully. Then answer each question in a full sentence, using evidence from the text where asked.

## Maya's Changing Money



Maya loved to draw and paint. For weeks, she had been saving her allowance to buy a special art kit. She had been so careful, putting her coins into her piggy bank every Saturday. It had vibrant paints, fancy brushes, and a sketchbook. Last month, when she first saw it, the kit cost \$12. Maya had carefully put aside \$2 each week, and now she had exactly \$15. She felt a thrill of excitement as she walked to "Art Corner," her favorite store, imagining all the colorful pictures she would create.

When Maya arrived, she quickly found the art kit. But her smile faded when she saw the new price tag: \$16. Her heart sank. She only had \$15! Confused, she asked Mr. Lee, the store owner, why the price had changed. Mr. Lee explained, "Well, Maya, the cost of the special paints and even shipping them here has gone up for me. So, I had to raise the price a little bit." He added, "This is an example of something called inflation. Inflation happens when the price of goods and services goes up over time, meaning your money doesn't buy as much as it used to."

Maya understood. Her \$15, which was enough last month, wasn't enough anymore. She realized she would need to save a little more or adjust her budget to find a different, less expensive art kit. This experience taught her that the value of money can change, and it's important to understand how inflation affects everyday choices, from buying a chocolate bar to planning for bigger purchases. Even things like groceries and gas can become more expensive because of inflation. It's why families often talk about their budgets and how to make their money go further.



**COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS**

**(1) How much money did Maya have saved for the art kit?**

---

---

---

---

**(2) What does the word "inflation" mean in the story?**

---

---

---

---

**(3) What is the main lesson Maya learns in this story?**

---

---

---

---

**(4) How did Maya feel when she saw the new price of the art kit?**

---

---

---



---

**(5) According to Mr. Lee, what caused the price of the art kit to go up?**

---

---

---

---

**(6) How might inflation affect something you want to buy in the future?**

---

---

---

---

