



## 😬 Oops! Moments

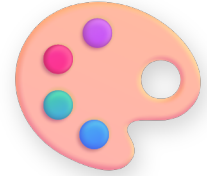
Grade 4

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

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

Find the ONE thing that started the whole chain. Then trace each "because of that..." step all the way to the end.

### The Red Lava Spill



Maya was so excited about her volcano model for the science fair. It was due tomorrow! She carefully mixed a vibrant red paint, the perfect color for lava. Just as she was about to apply the final coat, her elbow bumped the jar. *Splat!* A wave of bright red paint cascaded across her perfectly crafted green diorama base, splattering onto the edges of Leo's nearby solar system poster. Maya gasped, her heart sinking.

Her first attempt to fix it only made things worse. She grabbed a paper towel, but instead of absorbing the paint, it smeared the red across the green landscape, turning it a muddy brown. "Oh no!" she whispered. She glanced at Leo's poster, where a few red drops now looked like alien invaders on Jupiter. She quickly tried to wipe those off too, but the red paint just spread, leaving faint pink smudges on the planets.

Desperate, Maya remembered she had a small pot of green paint. Maybe she could just paint over the red? She dabbed a thick layer of green over the muddy brown, but the red still showed through, creating an even uglier, splotchy mess. She knew her volcano project was ruined, and now Leo's poster had pink planets. Mrs. Davis would be so disappointed.

By the time Mrs. Davis saw the mess, it was nearly dismissal. She had to stay late to help Maya clean up and reschedule Leo's poster presentation. Mr. Henderson, the janitor, also had to spend extra time cleaning the art room floor, which was now speckled with red and



green splotches. Maya felt terrible, realizing one small spill had caused so much trouble for everyone. She promised herself to always keep paint jars far from her elbows.

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**COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS**

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**(1) Which of these BEST explains why Maya's first attempt to fix the spill made things worse? Circle the correct answer.**

- A She used the wrong type of paint for the cleanup.
- B She grabbed a paper towel, which smeared the paint instead of absorbing it.
- C She didn't have enough time to clean it properly.
- D Leo accidentally bumped her arm again.

**(2) Complete the sentence: Because Maya spilled red paint on Leo's poster, it ended up with faint pink smudges.**

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**(3) What was one effect of Maya trying to paint over the red spill with green paint?**

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**(4) Describe how Maya spilling the red paint led to Mrs. Davis staying late and then to Mr. Henderson having extra work.**

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**(5) What might have happened if Maya had NOT spilled the red paint? Explain.**

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