



مدارس الكلية العلمية الإسلامية
Islamic Educational College Schools
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Literature: Short Story (The Marble Champ)

152-166

Student's Name: _____

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Skill/Lesson: The Marble Champ

Word	Definition
character motivation	why a character in a book, play, or movie does something.
suspense	a feeling of uncertainty, or curiosity about how events will turn out.
considerable	large enough to be noticed or have an effect
objective	goal; something that you are working hard to achieve
participate	be involved in a particular activity
previous	happening before something else
champion	person who has won a competition
recital	public performance of music or dance
fumed	complained angrily
rummaged	searched for something by moving things around
accurate	correct or exact
milky	white, like milk
agate	colored playing marble with strips
hypnotic	fascinating
bad	slang expression meaning “good”
reluctantly	unwillingly; slowly
rigged	put up temporarily
opponent	person who tries to defeat someone else in a game
assigned	given
quivering	trembling
instinct	natural ability
slivers	small broken pieces
commotion	sudden noisy activity

I. Fill in the blanks with the suitable words from the list.

reluctantly/ accurate/ considerable/ milky/ rummage/ recital

1. Zain doesn't like his coffee too **milky**.
2. Adam gave his first piano **recital** at age nine.
3. My watch is **accurate**.
4. Jawad is trying to **rummage** inside the sofa to find his mum's ring.
5. Omar **reluctantly** agreed to do the project, he wasn't so excited about it.
6. The boss received a **considerable** number of complaints from all workers.

II. Write complete sentences using the following words.

1. Previous (adj.): **I learned a lot from the previous lesson.**
2. Objective (n.): **My main objective is to finish the project on time.**
3. Fume (v.): **She began to fume when her brother broke her favorite toy.**

III. Write synonyms of the underlined words or phrases below.

1. Mustafa was the one who won the chess competition.

Mustafa was the chess **champion**.

2. The old man searched in his pocket for a handkerchief.

The old man **rummaged** in his pocket for a handkerchief.

3. My teacher has given us a very difficult homework.

My teacher has **assigned** a very difficult homework.

IV. Circle the suitable form of the word, and then JUSTIFYT your choice .

1. Hamza was (**reluctantly** / **reluctant**) to share his ideas with Khalid.
2. Mohammad (**reluctantly** / **reluctant**) participated in the Spelling Bee competition.
3. I (**considerable** / **consider**) Mohammad to be my friend.
4. Kareem has made a (**considerable** / **consider**) change since I met him.
5. Yamen had (**previously** / **previous**) worked in television.
6. Tameem explained the lesson in the (**previous** / **previously**) class.

V. Write the antonyms.

1. previous ≠ **next**
2. accurate ≠ **inaccurate**

VI. Write the base form of the inflected words below.

Example: texted text

called **call** phoning **phone** emailed **email**

tapping **tap** typed **type**

VII. Add the inflected ending to each word.

Base Word	Inflected-ed	Inflected -ing
plan	planned	planning
borrow	borrowed	borrowing
ship	shipped	shipping

Writing Task:

After reading about the story **The Marble Champ**, write a short paragraph summarizing the main events. Make sure to include the **setting**, **characters**, **conflict**, and the lesson of the story. Use at least **ten** vocabulary words you learned in this lesson.

In the story *The Marble Champ*, the main **character motivation** of Lupe is to become a **champion** in something, since in her **previous** years she had only won academic awards. She decides to **participate** in a marble contest and sets her **objective** to practice every day. At first, her thumb was **quivering** with effort, and she sometimes **fumed** when she missed shots, but she never gave up. The **suspense** grows as she faces her **opponent** in the final match. Before the game, she **rummaged** through her bag to find her favorite **agate** marble, shiny like a **milky** stone with a **hypnotic** swirl. Even though she entered the game a bit **reluctantly**, she trusted her **instinct** and became the winner. The lesson is that hard work and determination can help anyone achieve success.



Skill/Lesson: The Marble Champ

After reading “The Marble Champ” carefully, answer the following questions.

P. 156

1. What is the genre of this text “The Marble Champ”?

2. Why did the mayor congratulate Lupe?

3. How did Lupe score a point for the other team in soccer?

P. 157

4. What motivated Lupe to practice playing marbles?

5. Describe Lupe’s successes in school and her lack of athletic ability. P. 156

6. How did Lupe strengthen her wrists? P. 158

7. Who did Lupe beat at marbles in her backyard? P.158

8. What did Lupe do to strengthen her thumbs? P.158

9. How did Lupe's brother show that he was good at sport? P. 158

10. Alfonso said, "**Man, she's bad!**" What did he mean? P. 159

11. Mention the traits or the personality of the main character.

12. What tips did Lupe's brother give her? P. 158

13. How did Lupe's father encourage her? P. 160

14. Why did Lupe invite Rachel to join the group at the championship? P. 161

15. What made things difficult for Lupe when she played marbles with Miss Baseball Cap? P. 164

16. How did Lupe react after she beat the girl in the baseball cap? P. 162

17. How did Lupe's family celebrate Lupe's victory? P. 162

18. Why was Lupe so happy at the end of this story?

19. What was true about Lupe's last girl opponent? P. 161

20. Whom did Lupe play with after she defeated Miss Baseball Cap? P. 162

21. How did Lupe feel after winning?

(Critical Thinking)1. What are some characteristics that might make some people better winners or losers than others? Suggest three and explain why.

2. If you were Lupe, how would you feel after working hard and finally winning?

3. How can you justify that determination and self-belief lead to success?

"Real Life

How might Lupe's actions inspire you to help others build confidence in your own community or group?

Answers

1. The genre of *The Marble Champ* is Informational Text - **Realistic Fiction**.
2. The mayor congratulated Lupe because she became the **marble champion**.
3. Lupe scored a point for the other team in soccer when she **accidentally kicked the ball into the wrong goal**.
4. Lupe was motivated to practice marbles because she wanted to **be good at a sport and win in something athletic**.
5. Lupe was very **successful in school**; she won many academic awards, like spelling bees and reading contests. But she had **no athletic ability**, and she was weak in sports.
6. Lupe strengthened her wrists by **doing push-ups and other exercises**.
7. Lupe beat her **neighbor Alfonso** at marbles in her backyard.
8. Lupe strengthened her thumbs by **squeezing a rubber eraser and practicing every day**.
9. Lupe's brother showed he was good at sports by **winning ribbons and trophies in athletic events**.
10. When Alfonso said, "Man, she's bad!" he meant Lupe was **amazing and skillful at playing marbles**.
11. Lupe's traits: she was **hardworking, determined, intelligent, and never gave up**.
12. He told her to **aim carefully and not rush her shots**.
13. Lupe's father encouraged her by **helping her practice, giving advice, and cheering for her**.
14. Lupe invited Rachel because she wanted to **include her and let her be part of the group because she was alone and there was no one to encourage her**.
15. Things were difficult because Miss Baseball Cap was a **very tough opponent and played strongly**.
16. After Lupe beat the girl in the baseball cap, she **stamped her foot and said "Shoot!" with excitement and confidence**.
17. Lupe's family celebrated by **hugging her, cheering, and being very proud of her victory**.

18. Lupe was happy because she **worked hard, believed in herself, and finally won something in sports.**

19. The last girl opponent was **strong, tough, and very experienced in marbles.**

20. After defeating Miss Baseball Cap, Lupe played with **Rachel and the winner of the boys.**

21. After winning, Lupe felt **proud, excited, and confident.**

Critical Thinking

1.

Patience: helps people stay calm whether they win or lose.

Respect: makes them value others even in competition.

Confidence: allows them to accept results positively.

2. If I were Lupe, I would feel **very proud, happy, and motivated** after working hard and winning.

3. Determination and self-belief lead to success because they **help people practice, stay focused, and never give up until they reach their goals.**

Real Life

Lupe's actions inspire me to **help others practice, encourage them not to give up, and show them that with confidence and hard work, they can succeed too.**

An infinitive is formed with to + the base form of the verb.

It is used after certain verbs including

(afford / agree/ appear/ choose/ decide/ deserve/ learn/ offer/ plan/ promise/ refuse/ seem / want)

Ryan *decided* **to work** harder.

The students *chose* **to assign** the task online.

Karam is *planning* **to study** abroad.

Verb + infinitive: Huda agreed to help her classmates.

*** Use an object before the infinitives for some verbs including:**

(advise / allow/ cause/ convince/ force/ got/ hire/ invite/ order/ remind/taught)

Hashem *invited* *Kareem* **to participate** in the tournament. (Kareem is the object)

The teachers *reminded* *the students* **to submit** the work on time.(Find the object)

Waleed *advised* *Abdulla* **to be** patient and never give up. (Find the object)

Verb + object + infinitive: The coach convinced the team to practice harder.

Infinitives also follow certain adjectives including

(afraid/ difficult/ disappointed/ happy/ ready/ right/ sad/ sorry/ surprised/ wrong)

It's difficult **to understand** this math problem without help.

I'm happy **to see** you doing well in school.

Saleh is afraid **to speak** in front of the class.

Adjective + infinitive: I was surprised to hear the good news.

An **infinitive phrase** is a group of words that starts with “to” + a verb and includes any extra words that complete its meaning.

I like **to read books**.

Rashed wants **to learn Spanish**.

They decided **to go to the park**.

Ameen hopes **to win the game**.

We plan **to visit our grandparents**.

To become a successful writer, you need to practice every day

(Infinitives **bold**, verbs before them *underlined*, adjectives (circle), objects [brackets])

1. My cousin wants **to play** the drums [in a band].
2. My friend reminded [me] **to bring** a jacket.
3. We decided **to buy** a new computer.
4. They hired [my mom] **to send** out emails [about the charity].
5. I was (sorry) **to leave** early.

Task 2: Find the mistake in each sentence and then correct it.

1. Ghassan wants having more English classes.....
2. Abdulla’s family can’t afford eat out every week.....
3. Maher agreed to playing chess.....
4. Mohammad appears having the disease.....
5. Waleed is afraid going by a bike on this road.....
6. Saleh learns communicating better.....
7. Yousef offered to helps me.....
8. Ahmad refused sign the document.....
9. Hassan promised to came.....
10. What does Basel plan doing after school?.....
11. Jameel reminded to get his money back.....
12. Yousef invited to drink coffee with him.....

- Ghassan wants **to have** more English classes.
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- Ahmad refused **to sign** the document.
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- What does Basel plan **to do** after school?
- Jameel reminded [me] **to get** his money back.
- Yousef invited [me] **to drink** coffee with him.

Task 3: Choose the correct word.

1. Yamen is happy(**seeing/ to see**) his friend at the mall.
2. Abdulhadi is ready (**participates/ to participate**) in the competition.
3. Aser was surprised (**having/to have**) his computer shut down.
4. Asef thinks that it is easy (**to play/ plays**) piano.
5. (**Taim persuaded me to study**)/(Taim persuaded to study).

Task 4: Suggest a word/ words to complete the following sentences.

- The teacher taught **us to forgive**.
- My dad allowed **me to speak**.
- My friend forced **me to participate**.

- Omar hired **a worker to clean** the office for him.
- Yamen thinks it's wrong **to be** late.
- Ahmad is planning **to prepare** well for the exam.
- The rain caused Omar **to stay** home.
- Adam chose **to watch** the movie at the cinema.

Writing Task: Write a short paragraph about your goals and dreams.

You **must include at least 8 different infinitive phrases** (e.g., *to learn English, to travel the world, to become a doctor*).

My goals and dreams are very important to me. I want **to learn English** well and **to travel the world**. One of my dreams is **to become a doctor** and **to help sick people**. I also hope **to study abroad** and **to meet new friends**. Another goal is **to write stories** and **to inspire children** to read more. Finally, I wish **to make my family proud** and **to live a happy life**.

A) Fill in the blanks

One lovely evening, Ahmad and his father **went** at the park nearby their house. They enjoyed the peaceful atmosphere and the cool breeze. Suddenly, Ahmad **saw** a man lying on the ground a few meters ahead. Ahmad stopped and **called** his father, who quickly rushed over to see what was happening. They **carried** the poor man to the side of the road, making sure not to cause any further harm.

The man was struggling to breathe, and Ahmad realized the urgency of the situation. Ahmad quickly **alerted** an ambulance. While waiting, Ahmad's father **did** CPR to help with the man's breathing. The ambulance **arrived** after about 15 minutes. Apparently, the man had a mild heart attack. He was sent to the hospital immediately for further treatment. Ahmad and his father **continued** jogging. His father **praised** him for his quick action.

It was a meaningful day for them because they had done a good deed. Ahmad and his father **felt** incredibly happy. They were proud and thankful that they had been in the right place at the right time to help someone in need.

B) Title suggestion

“A Quick Action That Saved a Life”

C) Elements of the story

- **Characters:** Ahmad and his father, the man.
- **Setting:** The park in the evening.
- **Conflict/Problem:** The man had a heart attack.
- **Solution/Resolution:** Ahmad alerted an ambulance, and his father gave CPR until help arrived.
- **Lesson:** Helping others and acting quickly can save lives.

D) Suitable tense(s)

Past tense (with some past continuous if needed).

E) Problem & Solution

- **Problem:** The man was lying on the ground and struggling to breathe (heart attack).
- **Solution:** Ahmad's father gave CPR and they called an ambulance, which saved him.

Short Story Task

The Night the Power Went Out

It was a quiet evening, and Laila was sitting at her desk, her pencil scratching across the page as she prepared for her final exam. The room smelled faintly of her mother's jasmine perfume drifting from the hallway, and the only sound was the steady ticking of the clock. Suddenly—*click!*—everything went dark. The ceiling fan stopped turning, the lamp flickered out, and the house was swallowed by silence.

At first, Laila froze. Her heart pounded as she whispered, "What happened?" Through the window, she noticed that the entire neighborhood was dark too. A heavy blanket of shadows spread across the street, making the houses look unfamiliar, almost haunted. She could hear dogs barking nervously in the distance, and the rustling of tree branches outside made the night feel alive.

Her younger brother, Sami, shouted from the next room, "The power's out!" He stumbled into the living room, holding two candles. The flames danced wildly, throwing tall, shaky shadows on the walls. Laila felt a chill run down her spine as the wind sneaked through a crack in the window, nearly blowing out the fragile light.

Their father calmly walked in, carrying a heavy flashlight. The beam cut through the darkness, landing on Laila's worried face. "Don't panic," he said gently. "It's just a blackout." But his deep voice echoed strangely in the silent house, making it feel like a mystery was unfolding.

They all gathered in the living room. At first, the mood was tense. Laila felt anxious, her stomach twisting, because she desperately needed to finish her studying. The smell of melted wax filled the air as her mother lit more candles, arranging them on the table. The flickering light revealed everyone's uneasy expressions.

But slowly, the fear began to fade. Sami broke the silence by telling a funny story about his teacher, and soon the room echoed with laughter. Their father suggested a board game, and the family leaned close around the table, the candlelight painting their faces in warm, golden tones. Outside, the night was still dark, but inside, the house was filled with comfort, stories, and joy.

Time seemed to pass quickly, and the suspense of the blackout was replaced by togetherness. Just before midnight, the lights suddenly flickered back on, humming with energy. Everyone blinked as their eyes adjusted to the brightness. Laila looked at her books on the desk and smiled. She no longer felt stressed. Instead, she felt calm, grateful, and connected to her family.

That night, what began as a frightening moment turned into a memory she would never forget.

Lesson: Even when life feels uncertain and dark, family and love can bring light.

Rubric:

Content & ideas (2) / Grammar & punctuation (2)/ Linking Words (2)/ spelling (1) handwriting (1)

Short Story Peer-Checking Checklist

- **Clear Beginning, Middle, and End:** Does the story follow a logical and engaging structure?
- **Setting Description:** Is the setting vividly described and appropriate to the story?
- **Conflict & Resolution:** Is there a clear problem or conflict, and is it resolved effectively?

- **Central Theme or Message:** Is there a clear theme or moral?
- **Engaging Plot:** Does the story hold the reader's interest throughout?
- **Creativity & Originality:** Is the story imaginative and unique?

- **Descriptive Language:** Are sensory details and figurative language used effectively?
- **Dialogue:** Is dialogue used naturally and does it enhance the story

- **Spelling and Punctuation:** Are there spelling and punctuation mistakes?
- **Sentence Structure:** Are sentences varied and grammatically correct?
- **Paragraphing:** Is the story organized into clear, logical paragraphs?

- **Title:** Is there a creative and relevant title?
- **Word Count:** Does the story meet the required length?
-

Hashem always dreamed of becoming an excellent athlete. Every day after school, he trained hard on the track, pushing himself to improve. At first, it was difficult to keep up with the other runners, and he often felt tired and frustrated. Sometimes, he wanted to give up. But his coach and friends kept encouraging him, reminding him that success comes from never giving up.

Finally, the day of the big race arrived. Hashem's heart pounded as he stood at the starting line, surrounded by faster, more experienced runners. The moment the race began, Hashem sprinted forward with everything he had. But halfway through, his legs felt heavy and his breath grew shallow. He stumbled on a loose stone and nearly fell. Pain shot through his ankle, and for a terrifying second, he thought he couldn't continue. Doubt crept into his mind: Maybe I'm not good enough. But then he heard his coach's voice in his head, urging him on. Gritting his teeth, Hashem pushed through the pain and kept running.

He didn't win first place, but crossing the finish line filled him with a powerful sense of pride and relief. His coach praised his courage, saying, "You showed real determination today. That's what success is really about." Hashem realized that success isn't just about winning; it's about fighting through challenges, believing in yourself, and accepting support from others. With that determination, he knew he could achieve his dreams.

1. Add a suitable title for this passage.

“Hashem's Race of Determination”

2. What obstacle did Hashem face halfway through the race??

He stumbled on a loose stone, hurt his ankle, and felt pain and doubt.

3. When did Hashem feel like giving up?

He felt like giving up when training was hard, he was tired, and he couldn't keep up with the other runners.

4. Find a word from the text which means “ran very fast for a short distance”.

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5. Critical Thinking: Why do you think Hashem didn't mind that he didn't win first place? What does this tell you about his attitude?

He didn't mind because he was proud that he finished despite the pain. This shows he values effort, courage, and determination more than just winning.

Critical Thinking: How important do you think encouragement from others is when trying to achieve a difficult goal?

Encouragement is very important because it gives people confidence, helps them stay motivated, and reminds them not to give up when things are hard.

6. Real-Life Application Question

Can you think of a time when you faced a difficult challenge but kept going like Hashem? How did encouragement from others help you?

Student's own answer, but here's a model:

When I was studying for a difficult exam, I wanted to stop because I was tired. My teacher and family encouraged me to keep going, and their support helped me pass.