

The Scratch

Mia borrowed her brother's notebook while he was out. She only meant to use one page.

The cover was plain and the pages were blank. It looked like any other notebook. Mia flipped to the back and found a clean space. She wrote her ideas quickly, pressing hard with the pen. When she finished, she closed it and slid it back onto the shelf.

Later that afternoon, her brother sat at the table with the notebook open in front of him. He stopped turning the pages.

"There's a mark here," he said.

Mia looked over. The words she had written were not there, but the page was no longer smooth. The pen had left a deep scratch that showed through the paper.

"It doesn't come off," her brother said. "I was saving this one."

Mia stayed quiet. She thought about saying it was an accident, but she knew she had chosen to use it.

That evening, Mia walked past the shelf. The notebook was still there. It just wasn't the same.

Parent Guide – The Scratch (Level 3)

Session 1 - Reading to

You read the text to them. They listen.

After reading, these questions are optional. They focus on Mia's choice and why she made it.

What choice did Mia make at the start of the story?

You might hear - She used her brother's notebook. She wrote in it.

If not - Point to the first two paragraphs, reread, and stop.

Why do you think Mia chose the back of the notebook?

You might hear - She thought it wouldn't matter. She wanted a clean page.

If not - Reread the paragraph about the clean space and finish.

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Session 2 - Echo reading

You read one line. They repeat it back.

After reading, these questions are optional. They focus on the notebook's importance and why Mia stays quiet.

What shows that the notebook was important to her brother?

You might hear - He was saving it. He noticed the mark straight away.

If not - Point to "I was saving this one." Reread and stop.

Why does Mia stay quiet here?

You might hear - She feels bad. She knows she chose to do it.

If not - Point to the paragraph starting, "Mia stayed quiet." Reread and move on.

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Session 3 – Choral reading

You read the story together at the same time.

After reading, these questions are optional. They focus on what cannot be changed and what the ending shows.

What cannot be changed in this story?

You might hear - The scratch. The mark is permanent.

If not - Point to “It doesn’t come off.” Reread and finish there.

What does the ending show us about what happened?

You might hear - The notebook is different now. The choice had an effect.

If not - Reread the final paragraph and stop.

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Session 4 – Partner reading

Take turns reading one sentence each.

After reading, these questions are optional. They focus on what Mia realises and which detail matters more by the end.

What does Mia do or realise by the end of the story?

You might hear - She understands what she did. She knows it can't be fixed.

If not - Point to the last two paragraphs and reread one of them.

Looking back at the start of the story, what part matters more now?

You might hear - The notebook. Using it. The scratch. Choosing to write in it.

If not - Reread the first paragraph and stop.

If this feels manageable, the story bundles continue the same structure without extra planning.