

5

An Exhilarating Journey

In the bustling neighborhood of Thrillsville, three friends—Marek, Zoey, and Laird—shared a passion for skateboarding. Their favorite spot was the old, abandoned amusement park, where rusty rides stood like ancient guardians. But there was one legendary challenge they hadn't conquered—the elusive Golden Rail. The Golden Rail was no ordinary ramp. It shimmered in the moonlight, casting a spell on anyone who dared approach. Legend had it that whoever mastered its twists and turns would gain unimaginable speed and agility. Marek, the daredevil, was determined to prove the legend true. One moonlit night, the trio gathered at the park. Marek's skateboard gleamed under the stars. "Tonight," he declared, "we ride the Golden Rail!" They pushed off, wheels humming against cracked pavement. The air smelled of adventure. As they neared the rail, it seemed to pulse with energy. Marek led the way, carving through the darkness. Zoey followed, her braids flying like streamers. Laird, the cautious one, hesitated but couldn't resist. The rail twisted, dipped, and soared. Marek's heart pounded as he balanced on the edge. Zoey's laughter echoed—a mix of fear and exhilaration. Laird's eyes widened; he'd never seen anything like it. Suddenly, the rail split into two paths: the Spiral Slide and the Tunnel of Echoes. Marek chose the Spiral Slide, spiraling downward like a comet. Zoey veered into the tunnel, her voice bouncing off invisible walls. Laird hesitated—then plunged into the tunnel after her. The friends emerged, breathless, onto a platform. Before them stood a massive half-pipe—the Grand Gorge. Its walls curved impossibly high. Marek grinned. "This is it—the final challenge!" They dropped in, gravity pulling them faster. Marek soared, defying limits. Zoey spun like a top. Laird clung to the edge, eyes wide. At the peak, they glimpsed the Golden Rail's end—a glowing portal. Marek raced toward it, heart pounding. Zack and Laird followed. As they touched the portal, time blurred. They shot out into a neon-lit city—the Skateboarder's Nexus. Buildings became ramps, and streets curved like waves. Marek looped around skyscrapers, Zoey flipped over fountains, and Laird carved through alleys. They were legends! But the Nexus had rules: kindness, courage, and camaraderie. Marek helped a lost skater find her way. Zoey cheered up a discouraged trickster. Laird taught a graffiti artist to balance. As dawn approached, they returned to Thrillsville. The Golden Rail awaited, its magic fading. Marek, Zoey, and Laird rode it together, their bond stronger than ever. They'd conquered more than a rail—they'd discovered a world beyond imagination. And so, in the heart of Thrillsville, the legend grew: "Three friends rode the Golden Rail and found the Skateboarder's Nexus." Their adventure was etched in the stars, inspiring skaters for generations. And as the sun rose, Marek whispered, "We'll ride again, my friends. Adventure never ends."

1. *Read the reading passage thoroughly.*
2. *Underline any word or sentence you don't understand.*

5

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Answer according to the reading passage:

- 1. What legendary challenge di the 3 friends not conquer yet?**
 - a. the Spiral Slide
 - b. the Grand Gorge
 - c. the Golden Rail

- 2. Which friend was determined to prove the legend of the Golden Rail true?**
 - a. Laird
 - b. Marek
 - c. Zoey

- 3. What is the Grand Gorge?**
 - a. spiral slide
 - b. half pipe
 - c. skateboarder's nexus

- 4. Where is the Golden Rail?**
 - a. Nexus
 - b. abandoned amusement park
 - c. Grand Gorge

- 5. What did the legend say about anyone who mastered the Golden Rail?**
 - a. they would become a legend
 - b. they would become famous
 - c. they would gain unimaginable speed and agility

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Open Response Questions

Open response questions for thinking skills:

1. Inferring
 2. Making Connections
 3. Summarizing
 4. Visualizing
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1. Imagine you're Marek. Describe the mix of emotions you felt as you balanced on the edge of the Golden Rail. How did the excitement and fear intertwine?
 2. The Skateboarder's Nexus had rules: kindness, courage, and camaraderie. How did Marek, Zoey, and Laird demonstrate these qualities during their adventure? Provide specific examples.
 3. Explain how the 3 friends conquered the Golden Rail.
 4. Describe with details what the Golden Rail would look like.
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- Consider the bond between Marek, Zoey, and Laird. How did their shared experience on the Golden Rail strengthen their friendship? What lessons can we learn about teamwork and overcoming challenges from their story?
 - If you were designing your own legendary skateboarding challenge, what elements would it include? How would you make it both thrilling and magical?
 - Could this reading passage be fiction or non fiction or both? Explain.