

# 4th Grade Reading: The Big Tryout - Answer Key

4th Grade - theme, character, and inference | 20 minutes

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## Read the passage:

Jordan had wanted to make the school band for two years. This year, the tryout was for a drum spot, and only three students would be chosen. The week before, Jordan practiced the same rhythm every night until his hands knew it without thinking. On the morning of the tryout, his stomach felt like it was full of butterflies. When his name was called, his heart pounded. He sat at the drums, took a deep breath, and began. Halfway through, he missed a beat - but instead of stopping, he kept the rhythm going, just like he had practiced. When he finished, the band teacher wrote something down and smiled. Two days later, a list went up on the music room door. Jordan pushed through the crowd. There, third on the list, was his name. All those quiet nights of practice had been worth it.

## Read the story. Then answer each question in a complete sentence, using evidence from the text.

1. What was Jordan trying out for?

**Answer: A drum spot in the school band.**

2. How did Jordan prepare for the tryout?

**Answer: He practiced the same rhythm every night until he knew it well.**

3. How did Jordan feel on the morning of the tryout? How do you know?

**Answer: Nervous - his stomach felt full of butterflies and his heart pounded. (Sample answer.)**

4. What did Jordan do when he missed a beat?

**Answer: He kept the rhythm going instead of stopping, just as he had practiced.**

5. What is the theme (lesson) of the story?

**Answer: Hard practice and not giving up pay off. (Sample answer.)**

## Challenge

6. How do you know the practice was worth it? Use the text.

**Answer: His name was third on the list, so he made the band.**