

Name _____

ReadWorks

The Family Business

The fallen leaves crunched under Kiara's feet as she walked up her driveway. She hopped from one crumbled leaf to another, just like she had always done when she was little, to see if she could crush them all. She liked the sound they made, like a quiet chorus. It was an impossible goal, like trying to count all the stars in the sky in one sitting. But she still tried, mesmerized by the sea of red, orange, and brown. It was one of Kiara's favorite things about autumn.

As she approached her garage, she began to hear the sound of a saw going back and forth. It was a familiar sound, one that always signaled the presence of her father. Sure enough, she spotted her dad cutting a piece of wood in half. "What are you working on today?" she asked him. He stopped sawing, smiled at Kiara, and then wiped his forehead with a gloved hand. "Oh, just another Adirondack chair," he replied. "Want to help?"

Kiara paused for a second but then felt her tired legs wobble beneath her. "Maybe later, Dad, it was a long day at school," she said. He nodded his head, then got back to work. Ever since she could pick up a hammer, Kiara's father had taught her his trade of carpentry. He wanted her to join the family business, to continue the tradition, as both Kiara's grandfather and great-grandfather had been carpenters as well. It was a small business—her father just had two other paid helpers who assisted him when he had more work than usual. At first, she resisted his influence, determined to find her own path, but as she grew older and older, she couldn't imagine a life without at least a touch of carpentry.

After reading for a while and eating a snack, Kiara returned to the garage with two cups of apple cider. She set one mug down in front of her father, on the board that he was cutting through. "Hey, you know I don't drink and saw!" he said, teasing his daughter. He picked it up and sat down on a bench that he had built in the corner. "You know what type of wood that is?" he asked her. Kiara looked at the boards that he was cutting—they were a light tan, with straight grains running through them. She shook her head. "Cypress," he replied. "If you use an older tree, which this is, the wood can be very durable against rot, meaning that it's very good for outside furniture," he explained. Kiara shifted in her seat to get more comfortable; she knew that when her father started talking about his work, he could go on for a while.

"This species of tree typically grows in the Southeast, near Louisiana, but I was lucky enough that a buddy of mine recently brought a truck full of trees up here with him. Plus, they aren't endangered, so we aren't cutting down anything that shouldn't be cut down," he said, running his hands over the cypress boards. "And see how nice the grain is? That's why I'll just put a clear finish over the top instead of paint," he explained. Kiara knew that he would continue to talk for as long as she let him.

"How many are you going to build?" she asked.

"Just six—a friend of a friend commissioned me to make them for his bed and breakfast; he wants some nice chairs to put on the porch so that his guests can enjoy the view of the backyard," her father explained. They both sat in silence, drinking their cider and staring at the wood. After a few minutes, her father got back to work on the large chairs.

Kiara couldn't help but join him. As she slipped on working gloves, she felt right at home. She pictured herself in ten or twenty years doing the same thing, and thought that maybe it wouldn't be so bad after all.

Write your answers to the following questions on notebook paper.

1. Read this sentence from the story. *Kiara knew that when her father started talking about his work, he could go on for a while.*
What evidence in the story supports this statement?
2. Explain why Kiara is likely to join the family business using evidence from the story.
3. What is the theme of this story?

6th Grade AMI Packet Day 3

Name _____

Date _____

Lesson 1: Ratios

Exit Ticket

1. Write a ratio for the following description: Kaleel made three times as many baskets as John during basketball practice.
2. Describe a situation that could be modeled with the ratio 4:1.
3. Write a ratio for the following description: For every 6 cups of flour in a bread recipe, there are 2 cups of milk.