The Bulldogs

Barry was a football player. He was the quarterback on the Newberg Lions. The team was not doing so well. All of their players had been tired because of the heat wave in town.

They lived in California, and that year, it was a serious drought. There was no water in town. This was bad for football because football players needed water. When they were practicing in the heat, the players would sweat out all of the water in their bodies. That summer, they could only have a little drinking water at practice.

"We need to get more water, Coach!" yelled Oscar, the running back. "If I don't have my water, I won't be able to run the ball."

"Same goes for me, Coach," said Fritz, the Nose Tackle. "If I'm not hydrated, I can't break a tackle, and I ABSOLUTELY won't be able to sack the other team's quarterback." The whole team agreed. No water meant no football.

Coach Marman, who looked like a mean old bulldog, put up his hand. The room immediately fell silent. "I know this is tough," he said, "It's been a hard season, and you all have worked hard. Tomorrow we face our rivals, the Oldtown Otters. We've lost to them the past three years, but tomorrow we will get our victory."

"But how can we do it without any water?" asked Barry.

"You leave that to me, son. You leave that to me."

Barry lived on the edge of Newberg and Oldtown. There was a water tower in Oldtown. It was the water that went to the entire city. It was for all the houses, all the hospitals, and all the schools. It was a tough summer, and both Newberg and Oldtown had to limit their water. If someone took too much, then no one would have enough.

One night, Barry was out walking his bulldog, Rex. He always walked the same path, which went around the water tower. It was dark by the time they reached the green tower when Barry saw Coach Marman's truck. There were barrels of water in it. Barry got suspicious.

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He tied his bulldog to a post on the road, and went to investigate. To his surprise, he saw what looked like another bulldog. It was Coach Marman. He was stealing the water from the Oldtown water tower.

"What are you doing here? Is this what you meant by 'leave that to me'?" asked Barry. Coach Marman was shocked, and barked when he heard a voice.

"I'm walking my bulldog, but I should ask you the same. What are you doing here?" Coach Marman was caught. He was guilty and he knew it. "Look son, if I don't steal this water, then we are going to lose the game. Do you want to win or not?" Coach Marman asked with a guilty smile.

Barry thought for a moment. He wanted to win, but stealing was wrong. He did not want to let down his team, but he did not want the people of Oldtown to suffer either.

"Coach... if you don't give this water back, then you just lost a quarterback." Coach Marman turned his smile upside down. He couldn't believe Barry would turn himself around.

I don't know how I could live with myself," Barry said. "We're only playing a game, but Oldtown needs that water. I'll play for you, I'll give it my best, but not as long as we are stealing water. Make your choice."

Barry didn't end up playing that game. The Newberg Lions ended up beating the Oldtown Otters. Barry was never the happier, because he knew, deep down, that he was true to himself, and his friends forgave him, the right ones, anyway. He never forgot that, on that fateful night, he chose the right bulldog.

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Little Miss Hope

Corinne loved Earth. Not the ground, but the planet. She had so many globes in her room that the kids in her class started to make up names for her. Maya called her "Mommy Earth." Gerard called her "That globe girl." Ms. Netters, the teacher called her "Little Ms. Hope." Ms. Netters called her this because of all the students in her class, Corinne took a stand about recycling.

She would bring in a brown paper bag every day to school. With a black magic marker, she wrote on the bag, "PUT PLASTIC HERE. THANKS, EARTH." One time Gerard purposefully didn't put his plastic water bottle into the bag. Corinne nearly exploded. She yelled at Gerard out in front of the class. He was almost crying.

"I'm sorry," said Gerard, nearly in tears, "I don't want Earth to die."

"That's right you don't," said Corinne, "now put that plastic where I told you so that we all don't burn up in a giant fireball." Ms. Netters made Corinne stay after class that day. She was worried.

"Corinne dear, I like you recycling, but I can't have you scaring everyone about the earth burning." Corinne put her shoulders up. "Ms. Netters, do you know that every day, our city lets 10 tons of plastic into the ocean? Every day! That means that means that by the time I'm your age, 70 MILLION POUNDS of plastic will be in the ocean!" Ms. Netters just looked on. She had a frown on her face. "Doesn't that scare you, Ms. Netters?"

"Corinne... I don't want the earth to die any more than you, but you've taken this recycling too far. I'm going to have to ask you to stop bringing in your brown paper bag. If you do so again, I'll have to give you a detention." Corinne was about to cry under her glasses. "Now go run along home, and don't forget your math homework for tomorrow."

Corinne walked home crying. Ms. Netters didn't get it. If Corinne wasn't doing her part, than what was the point of being a human. What was the point of math?! By the time she got to be a teacher, or a president, or a nurse, there wouldn't be any more Earth to do math on.

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When she got home, Corinne ran into her house and went straight to her bedroom and wept. She could not understand how her teacher would stop something that was so important. Corinne knew she could not give up on the earth, so she made a plan.

"Mom, I need to use the phone and a phonebook. I have some important work to do," Corinne asked. She then hurried up to her room and got to work.

The next morning, Corinne walked into the classroom. She put up two bags, one that said "Paper Recycling" the other "Plastic Recycling". Ms. Netters was furious. She walked right up to Corinne, and was just about to give her a detention note when Maya walked in and also set up two bags for recycling. Right after Maya, in walked Gerard who also set up two bags for recycling. Before long, the class was full of recycling stations.

"This is our world too, Ms. Netters. Even if I get in trouble, I know that does not matter in comparison to protecting the earth. I am not the only one who thinks this," said Corinne as she looked around the room.

"Well, I guess you win this one, Little Miss Hope," sighed Miss Netters.

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RL.4.9 #1

•RESPOND•
The Bulldogs and Little Miss Hope

NAME:

RL.4.9

The Bulldogs	Little Miss Hope
What is the **THEME** of this text?	What is the **THEME** of this text?
Describe the **THEME** of the text.	Describe the **THEME** of the text.

Describe how the theme or main elements of both texts is **SIMILAR.**

Describe how the theme or main elements of both texts is **DIFFERENT.**

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RL.4.9 #1

•RESPOND• The Bulldogs

NAME:

RL.4.3

1. **CHARACTER CLOSE UP:** Barry
   Use details from the text to describe this character.

Color his **FEELINGS, THOUGHTS,** or **WORDS** in the text. Describe below.

2. Is Barry a character you like or connect to? Why or why not? Use evidence from the text to support your response.

3. Do you like or connect to Coach Marman? Why or why not? Use evidence from the text to support your response.

RL.4.2

4. Write a **SUMMARY** of this story.

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RL.4.9 #1

•RESPOND• Little Miss Hope

NAME:

RL.4.3

1. **CHARACTER CLOSE UP:** Corinne

Use details from the text to describe this character.

Color her **FEELINGS, THOUGHTS,** or **WORDS** in the text. Describe below.

2. Is Corinne a character you like or connect to? Why or why not? Use evidence from the text to support your response.

RL.4.1

3. Near the end, the text says, "said Corinne as she looked around the room". What do you think Corinne saw as she looked around the room? Refer to text details found in your response.

RL.4.2

4. Write a **SUMMARY** of this story.

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