Jelly

The Tower That Fell Twice

LITTLE READERS



BEFORE YOU READ

Look and Wonder

1. Look at the blocks and the mat.
2. Where would you start the tower?
3. What might make it fall?
4. Tell a partner your idea.



Ben found a box of wooden blocks.

It sat beside the classroom rug.

Mina carried it to the blue mat.

Max asked if they could build a tower.



They sat around the edge of the mat.

Ben put down a wide yellow block.

Mina set a red block on top.

Max added a short green block.



The tower grew above their knees.
Max reached for a long blue block.
"Where could this one go?"
Mina pointed to the flat top.



Max set the long block on top.
One end stuck out to the side.
Ben held his hands in his lap.
For a moment, the tower stood.



Then the top moved to one side.
The red block slid after it.
The whole tower fell on the mat.
Nobody was close enough to get hurt.



Max picked up the long blue block.

"Maybe we made it too tall."

Mina picked up two red blocks.

"Let's try a shorter tower."



They put the longest blocks away.

Ben left the wide yellow block out.

Max chose two little green blocks.

Mina chose one short red block.



This time, Max built the bottom.
He put the yellow block on the mat.
Mina added the short red block.
Ben put the green blocks side by side.



The new tower was only three rows high.
Nothing stuck out from its sides.
Ben moved his hands back slowly.
The friends watched it stand.



Mina reached for the block box.
The low tower tipped toward Max.
It fell before she touched the box.
Max looked down at his empty hands.



"It was not tall this time."

Ben picked up the yellow block.

"It did not stick out, either."

Mina looked at the blue mat.



A corner of the mat had folded under.
The fold made one raised strip.
Their tower had stood across that strip.
One side of the base was higher.



Max slid a single block onto the fold.
It rocked when he touched one end.
Mina tried it on the flat part.
This time, the block did not rock.



"Was the fold there before?" Ben asked.

Max looked at the yellow block.

"I did not check when we started."

Mina traced the fold with a finger.



They took all the blocks off the mat.
Ben held the edge with both hands.
Mina opened the folded corner.
Max pressed the mat flat with his palm.



Ben put the yellow block down again.
It sat level on the flat mat.
Max pressed one end and then the other.
This time, the block stayed still.



They wanted to try the same tower.

Mina found the short red block.

Ben brought back the two green blocks.

The long blue block stayed in the box.



Max put the yellow block at the bottom.
Mina placed the red block in the middle.
Ben put both green blocks on top.
The tower had the same three rows.



They drew a small line around the base.
It was on a paper square under the block.
They could see if the base moved.
Ben kept his hands away from the tower.



All three sat back to watch it.

One minute passed on the wall clock.

The little tower still stood straight.

Max smiled at the flat blue mat.



Stop and Think

WHAT HAVE YOU READ SO FAR?

1. What happened to the first tower?
2. How was the second tower different?
3. What did the friends find under it?
4. How did they test the fold?



Make a Prediction

USE THE CLUES

1. Will the same tower stand on a flat mat?
2. What should the friends keep the same?
3. What could they test next?
4. Share your prediction with a partner.



"Now we know what made it rock."

Mina pointed to the old fold line.

"But what about the first tower?"

Ben looked at the box of long blocks.



"It had a long block at the top."
Max held up the same blue block.
"One end stuck out quite far."
Mina asked how they could check.



They decided to test one change at a time.

Ben kept the bottom where it was.

Mina left the mat flat.

Max took out the long blue block.



First they took off the green blocks.
Max set the blue block on the red one.
He put its middle over the center.
The ends stuck out by the same amount.



The tower stayed up for a while.
Ben pointed to the middle of the block.
"It is resting evenly on both sides."
Max leaned closer without touching it.



They took the blue block off again.
Mina marked its middle with her finger.
Max placed it a little farther right.
One end stuck out more than the other.



The blue block began to tip.
Ben caught it before it hit the mat.
Mina saw the red block move a little.
The wide yellow base stayed still.



"The top can tip even on a flat mat."

Max put the blue block back in the box.

"And the base can rock on a fold."

Mina looked at the two places they tested.



Ben brought one sheet of paper.

He drew a flat line under a block.

Mina drew a fold under a second block.

Max added a dot at each spot to check.



The teacher came over to their mat.
She asked why they had tried again.
"The first fall gave us two ideas."
"The second fall helped us check one."



Mina showed the teacher the folded edge.
It was flat now, with a crease.
Max showed how the bottom block sat.
Ben showed where the top had tipped.



Their teacher set out a small tray.
It held some flat square blocks.
"Could you build a wider base now?"
Max looked at the space on the mat.



They put two wide blocks side by side.
Ben checked that neither one rocked.
Mina put one block across both of them.
Max made sure it sat in the middle.



They took turns adding one block.
Nobody pushed on the tower to test it.
They checked each row before building more.
The tower grew as high as Ben's waist.



A classmate stopped to watch them.

"How did you get it to stay up?"

Mina pointed to the wide bottom.

Max showed her the flat mat.



Ben picked up their picture.
He turned it so the classmate could see.
"Look at the bottom and the top."
"Then check what is under the bottom."



Before lunch, they took the tower apart.

Max put each block back in the box.

Mina rolled up the blue mat.

Ben set their picture by the blocks.



The next day, the mat had a new fold.
Ben noticed it before he started.
He asked Max to hold the far edge.
Mina smoothed the corner flat.



A smaller child brought three blocks.
Ben made room on the flat mat.
"Start with the wide one," said Mina.
Max waited while the child built.



The little tower stood by itself.

Ben could see every block clearly.

Mina smiled at the flat blue mat.

Max put the next block within reach.



Talk About the Story

LOOK BACK AT THE WHOLE STORY

1. Why did the base rock on the fold?
2. What made the long top block tip?
3. How did the friends build a wider base?
4. What will they check next time?



Think and Discuss

CONNECT THE STORY TO YOUR LIFE

1. When have you tried a plan twice?
2. Why check one change at a time?
3. What helps your own tower stand?
4. How could you show a friend?



Put the Pictures in Order

Look at the four pictures.

Write 1, 2, 3, and 4 in the boxes.



A ☐



B ☐



C ☐



D ☐

Point to the pictures and tell the story.

Tell the Story

USE THE FOUR PICTURES ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE

First ...

Next ...

Then ...

Finally ...



Draw a Steady Tower

Draw a tower on a flat surface.

Circle the parts that help it stand.

My tower stands on _____

I made it steady by _____



The End

Thank you for reading.

Build. Watch. Try again.

What will you build next?

