Sitting at her desk, Carla scanned the line of classmates as they filed in to take their seats.

“What happened to you?” she asked a dripping Ben as he shuffled into class. His soaked sneakers squeaked as he passed by.

“I was waiting at the bus stop when this huge truck came down the hill and splashed me!” he said.

“Looks like you and the truck started the day on a downhill slope,” Carla joked.

How can you tell that Carla and Ben are friends?
“This is Teamwork Week,” said Ms. Kim. “You will team up with a classmate to make a model of some kind.”

Carla decided she would ask Ben. They would make a good team.

“Typically, I let you pick your own partners,” explained Ms. Kim. “This time I am going to pull two names at a time from a box. The names I pick will be teammates.”

Carla sat completely still as Ms. Kim called out the names.

“Carla Vargas and, let’s see, Wendell Oaks.”

“Oh, no,” Carla said to herself. “I don’t know him.”
Carla agreed to meet Wendell after school to work on the project.

Later, at Wendell’s home, Mrs. Oaks greeted Carla and invited her to come inside. “Wendell is down in his lab,” she explained.

“Lab? Just what am I getting into now?” Carla wondered as she stepped down the stairs.

In the basement, Wendell had just finished working on a model car.


Stop Think Write

Carla seems worried that she will work with someone she doesn’t know. Why might that be a problem?
“I’m no good at it,” Carla said. She was embarrassed to tell about the model boat she made last year. It had floated for only a few seconds.

“Well, it takes two to make a team,” said Wendell. “I’m sure you have a talent to add.”

“I am good at coming up with ideas and making plans,” offered Carla. “What if we make a model for an amusement park ride?”

“Yes!” Wendell agreed. “Let’s make it a floating boat ride.”

“Um, sure,” said Carla, sounding very uncertain.
Carla made a preliminary sketch before they began to build. Wendell looked for materials. It was obvious that Wendell knew what he was doing! Carla was amazed at the hanging vines he made out of clay. Carla made a cave for the boat ride.

The teammates put the model in a pan filled with water. The water was a lake around the island. They made small boats from small trays. The trays had little foam balls underneath to help keep them afloat. Wendell linked the boats with string.

Stop Think Write

What would make it obvious that somebody likes animals?

__________________________________________

__________________________________________

__________________________________________

VOCABULARY

preliminary

obvious
“Wendell is an artist, a brain, and a good teammate,” Carla said to herself.

When the model was done, the boats went around the lake and floated in and out of the cave. The whole thing looked **gorgeous**!

“We did it!” Carla exclaimed as Wendell sat back and admired the model. “Let’s make a tape of water burbling, like in a stream,” she said. “We can play it while we give our presentation.”

“Good plan!” agreed Wendell, reaching for a tape recorder.

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**Stop Think Write**

How does the way that Wendell and Carla work together reinforce the theme of the story?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
In class, Wendell put on the tape and moved the boats around as Carla spoke. The bubbling sound and the gliding boats made the model come to life. Afterward, Carla and Wendell let their amazed classmates see the model up close.

“How did you do it?” Ben asked Carla. “After last year’s boat flop, I didn’t think you could make a thing!”

“Carla planned it all,” Wendell boasted.

“Well, Wendell made the plan work,” Carla insisted. “Without him, the boats would have sunk like stones.”

**Stop *Think* *Write***

What do you think Carla learned from working with Wendell on the project?

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________
1. How does Carla feel about working with Wendell at first?

2. What does Wendell contribute to the project?

3. What does Carla learn about Wendell through her teamwork with him?

4. Do you think “Teamwork Week” was a success for Carla and Wendell? Explain your answer.