

A Tiring Hike Answer Key

1. little
2. The little
3. a little
4. a little
5. the little

Teacher's Guide

- **Skill Focus:** Builds understanding of tone and specificity when selecting between **little**, **a little**, and **the little** within context-rich writing.
- **Differentiation Tips:**
 - For struggling learners, preview meanings using simple visuals or examples (e.g., "little" = almost none, "a little" = some, "the little" = specific small amount).
 - For stronger learners, ask them to explain how changing the determiner would shift the tone or accuracy of the passage.
- **Engagement Ideas:**
 - Read the passage aloud and pause for students to call out their chosen determiners.
 - Have students rewrite one paragraph from the perspective of a different character using varied tones.
- **Extension Ideas:**
 - Ask students to write their own short story (five sentences) that correctly uses all three determiners.
 - Use this passage as a model for a "Determiner Rewrite Challenge," where students switch the determiners and explain how meaning changes.