

## Smart Solutions Story Answer Key

1. Lila felt left out because her group started the project without her.
2. She got upset and tried to change the project without asking, then stopped talking.
3. She could have calmly told her group how she felt and offered ideas politely.
4. Listening helps everyone feel respected and makes teamwork smoother.
5. Answers will vary, but students should show empathy and positive communication.

### Teacher's Guide

- **Differentiation Tips:**
  - Read the passage aloud or provide audio support for students with reading challenges.
  - Offer sentence starters such as "The problem was..." or "Lila could have..." to support written responses.
  - Allow oral responses for students who struggle with writing.
- **Engagement Ideas:**
  - Act out the story and have students stop the scene to suggest better choices.
  - Create a "Problem-Solving Ladder" on the board where students brainstorm steps Lila could have taken.
  - Discuss how similar situations might happen in class and how to handle them calmly.
- **Extension Activities:**
  - Students write their own short story showing a problem and a peaceful solution.
  - Turn the story into a comic strip illustrating the before and after of good problem-solving.
  - Have small groups rewrite the ending to model teamwork and positive communication.