

HOW TO SOLVE A PROBLEM

A Growth Mindset Activity Guide

Ashima Shiraishi, one of the youngest professional rock climbers in the world, shares the trials and tribulations of climbing while challenging readers to face their problems head-on. An exemplar of growth mindset, Shiraishi shows readers how to rise to great heights. Complete fun and educational activities that develop a mindset that primes kids to meet the ups and downs of life!

Pre-Reading Activities

Before reading *How to Solve a Problem*, talk to your child about different kinds of mistakes. Start with stretch mistakes and sloppy mistakes.

Stretch mistakes happen when we are learning something new. As we figure out how to do this new thing, we make mistakes, but the mistakes are helping us to learn.

Sloppy mistakes happen when we are doing something we know how to do, but lose focus. Everyone makes the occasional sloppy mistake; we are only human. However, if we make too many sloppy mistakes, it is a sign that we need to regain focus to ensure success.

Normalize error by providing an example of a time you've made each kind of mistake, and ask your child to share their own examples.

Discuss: Which is the best kind of mistake to make and why?

Show students a video of Ashima Shiraishi: [youtube.com/watch?v=D4zBVDOsL7Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D4zBVDOsL7Y).

After watching, ask your child: What problems might Shiraishi have to solve in this story?



Read Together

Pause on the page that begins with “There were twists and turns,” and ask your child to **describe the problem**. Which kind of mistake is Shiraishi most likely to make? Why?

Ask: Was Shiraishi’s mistake a stretch mistake or a sloppy mistake? How do you know? Support with text evidence.

Discuss: Does Shiraishi fail in this story? Why or why not?

Extension Activities

Challenge readers to design their personal growth challenge! Ask readers to name one activity or skill that they want to learn or improve. Then, they should design a series of activities that will be difficult enough to build their skill. Have them draw or write a plan for their personal growth challenge!

I want to get better at using American Sign Language. The first event in my growth challenge would be to check out an ASL glossary from the library and practice signing. The second event would be to make an ASL music video in which I record myself signing the chorus to my favorite song. My final event would be to sign a conversation with a friend over Skype.



Let Your Reader Be a Researcher!

Instruct your reader to research some “famous failures.” What experiments went terribly wrong? Which writers went unpublished for extended lengths of time? Are there TV hosts who were fired from jobs early in their careers?

Most important, discuss what information these failures produced and how failures allow for growth and discovery. Have your reader present their research to you.

