# The Growing Garden

Read a garden story and notice how word endings change meaning.

**3.LF.15.b** "Apply knowledge of the changes in tense (-ed), number (-s), and degree (-er and -est) signified by inflected endings to determine the meaning of a word."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Find planted, pots, taller, and tallest in the passage. Underline each word, then circle its ending to show which part changes its meaning.

### Three Sunflower Plants

1. On Monday, our class set three pots on a sunny shelf. Each pot held soil and one sunflower seed. I planted the seeds with my friend Luis. We pressed each seed into the soil, then added a little water. Our teacher put small name cards beside the pots. Every morning, we checked the soil and waited for green shoots to appear.

2. After a week, three shoots poked out of the soil. Luis watered them when the soil felt dry. The next week, we used a ruler to measure the young plants. My plant was six inches tall. The plant Luis cared for was eight inches tall, so it was taller than mine. The third plant was five inches tall.

3. By the third week, each plant had more leaves. Mine reached ten inches, the one Luis cared for reached twelve inches, and the third reached nine inches. The plant Luis cared for was the tallest of the three. He smiled, but he did not call it a race. We moved the pots a little so the leaves had room to spread.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In planted, what does -ed tell you about when the planting happened?

2. In pots, what does -s tell you about the number of pots?

3. In week two, what does taller tell you about the plant Luis cared for and the narrator's plant?

4. In week three, what does tallest tell you about the plant Luis cared for?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write four sentences about a game you invent. Use and underline one past-action word ending in -ed, one word ending in -s that means more than one, one comparing word ending in -er, and one comparing word ending in -est.

**ANSWER KEY**

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**GRADE 3 · 3.LF.15.b**

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Find planted, pots, taller, and tallest in the passage. Underline each word, then circle its ending to show which part changes its meaning. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | In planted, what does -ed tell you about when the planting happened? | **The planting already happened.** |
| 2 | In pots, what does -s tell you about the number of pots? | **There was more than one pot. The class had three.** |
| 3 | In week two, what does taller tell you about the plant Luis cared for and the narrator's plant? | **The plant Luis cared for was higher than the narrator's plant.** |
| 4 | In week three, what does tallest tell you about the plant Luis cared for? | **It was higher than the other two plants.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

We played a game with three balls. The red ball went two feet into the air. The blue ball went higher than the red ball. The green ball went the highest of all three.

Accept answers that connect -ed to a past action, plural -s to more than one, -er to a comparison, and -est to the highest degree in a group. In Part 3, check that the four underlined words fit the student's sentences.