The Shady Bean

Notice how a story's structure helps explain what happens.

3.LF.24 "Identify the text structures within literary and informational texts. a. Explain how the structures, including comparison and contrast, sequence of events, problem and solution, and cause and effect, contribute to the meaning of the text..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that says what the shaded plant lacked. Circle the three words that show the order of Maya's steps.

A Brighter Place

1. On Monday, Maya set two bean plants on a classroom shelf. One plant stood beside a bright window. The other stood behind a tall stack of books. Maya gave both plants the same amount of water. After a week, the plant by the window had green leaves and a sturdy stem. The plant behind the books had pale leaves and a thin stem.

2. The plant behind the books did not get enough light. Maya wanted to help it, but the window ledge was already full. She and her teacher looked around the room. They found a clear spot on a table near the window. The teacher explained that leaves use light to make food for a plant. That helped Maya understand why the two plants looked different.

3. First, Maya cleared more space on the table by the window. Next, she and her teacher moved the shaded plant to that space. Then, Maya turned the pot so its leaves faced the window. The plant now had a brighter place to grow. Over the next two weeks, its new leaves grew green. Maya's plan gave the shaded plant the light it had been missing.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What problem does Maya solve, and which action solves it? Use details from the story.

2. How do First, Next, and Then help you understand Maya's plan? Give one step as evidence.

3. How does comparing the two plants help you understand why light matters? Give a detail about each plant.

4. What caused the shaded plant to grow less well? How does the teacher's explanation help you understand why?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a new four-sentence story about a problem at recess. State the problem, tell two steps in order, and explain how the steps solve the problem.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 3 · 3.LF.24

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that says what the shaded plant lacked. Circle the three words that show the order of Maya's steps. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What problem does Maya solve, and which action solves it? Use details from the story.	**The plant behind the books did not get enough light. Maya and her teacher moved it to a table near the window.**
2	How do First, Next, and Then help you understand Maya's plan? Give one step as evidence.	**They show the order of Maya's actions. For example, she cleared space before moving the plant to the table.**
3	How does comparing the two plants help you understand why light matters? Give a detail about each plant.	**The plant by the window had green leaves and a sturdy stem, while the shaded plant had pale leaves and a thin stem. The comparison shows that the plant with more light grew better.**
4	What caused the shaded plant to grow less well? How does the teacher's explanation help you understand why?	**The plant did not get enough light behind the books. The teacher explains that leaves use light to make food, which helps explain its weaker growth.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our soccer ball rolled under a locked shed during recess. First, I told the playground teacher where it went. Next, she used a long broom to pull the ball out. Her plan let us play soccer again without going under the shed.

For the marking job, students should underline “The plant behind the books did not get enough light” and circle First, Next, and Then. Accept question answers that use accurate story details to explain how each structure helps the reader understand the events.