Pictures Speak

Read how visible details can suggest a deeper idea.

3.LF.42 "Write poetry or prose in response to visual images to interpret their meanings."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three things you could see in the imagined picture, then circle a sentence that tells what one of those things means to the writer.

The Sidewalk Sprout

1. I imagine a picture of a gray sidewalk after rain. A thin crack cuts across one square. From that crack, a green sprout leans into the light. Cars rush by beyond the curb, but the little plant stays. To me, the sprout looks like a small voice saying, "I am here." The city seems too busy to hear it.

2. Near the sprout, a muddy shoe print crosses the sidewalk. Someone walked past without stepping on the leaves. I imagine that person slowing down for one careful step. The shoe print makes me think of kindness. It is easy to miss something small when we hurry. In this picture, one step gives the sprout room to keep growing.

3. Above the sidewalk, the clouds are breaking apart. A patch of sunlight rests on the sprout, while the rest of the street stays gray. I do not think the plant is strong because it is big. It is strong because it keeps reaching up. The picture reminds me that small things can last, especially when someone notices and makes space for them.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What idea do the sprout and the crack suggest together?

2. What does the muddy shoe print mean to the writer? Which detail helps you know?

3. The street is gray, but sunlight rests on the sprout. What idea does that difference suggest?

4. Why does the writer imagine the sprout saying, “I am here”?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Draw your own picture of a place that feels welcoming or lonely. Write three sentences about your drawing: describe two things someone can see, then explain what those details mean to you.

ANSWER KEY

Pictures Speak

GRADE 3 · 3.LF.42

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three things you could see in the imagined picture, then circle a sentence that tells what one of those things means to the writer. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What idea do the sprout and the crack suggest together?	**A small thing can grow even in a hard place.**
2	What does the muddy shoe print mean to the writer? Which detail helps you know?	**It suggests kindness. The person walked past without stepping on the sprout.**
3	The street is gray, but sunlight rests on the sprout. What idea does that difference suggest?	**The sunlight suggests hope or strength even when things around the sprout seem hard.**
4	Why does the writer imagine the sprout saying, "I am here"?	**The words show that the small sprout matters, even though the busy city might not notice it.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Drawing: Two people share an umbrella at a bus stop while rain falls around them. Writing: Two people stand close under one umbrella at a bus stop. Rain falls around them, but they stay dry. To me, this place feels welcoming because someone made room for a friend.

For the questions, accept other interpretations supported by details in the passage. For the open task, look for a drawing, two visible details in three written sentences, and an explanation of what the place means to the student.