Clues in the Garden

Use story clues and what you know to understand characters' choices.

4.LF.16.b "Apply prior knowledge to textual clues to draw conclusions about the author's meaning."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline at least one clue that helps you answer each question, and write the question's number beside it.

After the Rain

(1) On Monday, the school garden looked like a puddle with stems sticking out. Heavy rain had washed soil across the path and left some roots bare. Mara stopped at the gate and pulled a pair of old work gloves from her backpack. She had planned to play soccer before class, but she set her ball beneath the bench. "Roots cannot cover themselves," she said.

(2) Mr. Chen, the custodian, came out with a bucket of flat stones. He laid them across the wet path, leaving the tiny green shoots untouched. Sam started to call his friends over, then saw a robin hopping near the garden fence. He lowered his voice and pointed instead. The bird tugged at a worm where the rain had softened the dirt.

(3) At recess, a strip of paper hung from the gate: "Garden helpers, ask inside." No one had signed it. The sign was fixed with bright green tape. Mara spotted a roll of the same tape in Mr. Chen's cart and smiled. That afternoon, she found three classmates kneeling beside the plants. One held a small scoop, one carried water, and the third propped up a bent stem.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why does Mara put her soccer ball beneath the bench? Use a story clue and something you know about plants.

2. Why does Mr. Chen place stones on the path without touching the shoots? Use a clue and something you know about small plants.

3. Why does Sam lower his voice when he sees the robin? Use a clue and something you know about birds.

4. Who most likely put up the unsigned sign? Explain how a clue and something you know about people's actions support your conclusion.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write four sentences about a new student arriving at the garden the next day. In the first three sentences, show two clues in the student's actions without naming the student's feeling. In the fourth, explain what a reader could conclude about that feeling and what you know about people that supports it.

ANSWER KEY

Clues in the Garden

GRADE 4 · 4.LF.16.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline at least one clue that helps you answer each question, and write the question's number beside it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	1. Why does Mara put her soccer ball beneath the bench? Use a story clue and something you know about plants.	**Mara plans to help cover the bare roots instead of playing soccer. She takes out work gloves and says the roots cannot cover themselves; roots need soil around them.**
2	2. Why does Mr. Chen place stones on the path without touching the shoots? Use a clue and something you know about small plants.	**He is making a way to cross the wet path without stepping on the shoots. Small plants can be damaged if people step on them.**
3	3. Why does Sam lower his voice when he sees the robin? Use a clue and something you know about birds.	**Sam likely does not want to scare the robin away. He lowers his voice and points instead of calling out; birds may fly away from loud sounds.**
4	4. Who most likely put up the unsigned sign? Explain how a clue and something you know about people's actions support your conclusion.	**Mr. Chen most likely put it up. The sign uses the same bright green tape as a roll in his cart, and people often use supplies they have with them.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Nia stopped at the gate and watched the others work. She gripped her backpack straps and took a step back when Mara offered a scoop. After Mara showed her where to dig, Nia reached for the scoop. A reader could conclude Nia felt unsure at first, since people sometimes step back from tasks they have not tried before.

Accept conclusions supported by a passage clue and reasonable prior knowledge. For Your Turn, look for two action clues and a conclusion about the new student's feeling that follows from them.