Puddle Clue Hunt

Use clues from two writers to find what matters most.

4.LF.30.a "Make complex inferences within and across texts to determine the importance of information."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one clue in Maya's notes and one in Mr. Lee's log that work together to explain the puddle, then circle a detail that does not help explain it.

The Puddle by the Garden

1. From Maya's notebook, Monday: A wide puddle covered part of the path beside our school garden, but the rest of the path was dry. Our class had not watered the garden since Friday. A red ball rested near the fence, and ants marched around the puddle. By lunch, the water was still there. I wondered if rain had collected in a low spot, but the sky had stayed clear all weekend.

2. From Mr. Lee's work log, Monday: I left the outdoor tap on all morning to water the new trees. The water pressure seemed lower than usual. A hose runs under the path beside the garden, hidden by wood chips. Last month, I tightened a loose connection on that hose. I need to check it again. I also replaced a broken latch on the tool shed.

3. From Maya's notebook, Tuesday: Yesterday at lunch, Mr. Lee turned off the outdoor tap. He lifted the wood chips, and the ground below was soaked, but we could not see the hose. This morning, the puddle was much smaller, even though nobody had swept water away. A robin hopped along the fence while we watched. Mr. Lee said the office should know if a hose needs repair beneath a busy path.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why is rain an unlikely cause of the puddle? Use two clues from Maya's Monday note.

2. Why is the old loose hose connection a more useful clue than the broken shed latch?

3. What do Mr. Lee's log and Maya's Tuesday note suggest about the tap and the puddle? Use a clue from each.

4. The office can read only two facts before checking the path. Which fact from each writer would best support checking the buried hose? Explain.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Invent a different school mystery in four sentences. Give one clue from a student's notes, one from a worker's notes, a detail that does not help, and an inference that explains why the two clues matter most.

ANSWER KEY

Puddle Clue Hunt

GRADE 4 · 4.LF.30.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one clue in Maya's notes and one in Mr. Lee's log that work together to explain the puddle, then circle a detail that does not help explain it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why is rain an unlikely cause of the puddle? Use two clues from Maya's Monday note.	**The sky had been clear all weekend, and the rest of the path was dry.**
2	Why is the old loose hose connection a more useful clue than the broken shed latch?	**The hose runs under the path near the puddle, so its connection might be leaking. The shed latch has no clear link to the water.**
3	What do Mr. Lee's log and Maya's Tuesday note suggest about the tap and the puddle? Use a clue from each.	**Mr. Lee left the tap on all morning, and Maya saw that the puddle shrank after he turned it off. Water from the tap may have reached the puddle through the hose.**
4	The office can read only two facts before checking the path. Which fact from each writer would best support checking the buried hose? Explain.	**Mr. Lee reported a loose connection on the hose under the path. Maya reported that the puddle shrank after he turned off the tap. Together, these facts suggest the hose may need repair.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A student writes that library books feel damp each morning, even when it has not rained. A worker records that the air conditioner above the books has been dripping overnight. The student also notices a yellow bookmark on a desk. The dripping air conditioner likely wets the books, while the bookmark does not explain the dampness.

Accept other clue pairs if the student explains how they support an inference about the puddle. For Your Turn, look for two connected clues from different sources and a detail that does not help explain the mystery.