# Garden Sayings Grow

Use story clues to explain familiar sayings.

**5.LF.12.b** "Explain the meanings of common idioms, adages, and proverbs."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline four sayings that mean more than their words alone, and circle a nearby detail that helps you figure out each meaning.

### A Garden Takes Shape

1. On Saturday, our class tried to build a small garden beside the library. Mina rushed toward the soil with a packet of seeds, but Mr. Lee said, "Hold your horses." He pointed to the wooden frame still lying in pieces. Mina set the seeds down, and we measured the space before anyone started digging. The garden would need a sturdy border to keep feet off the new plants.

2. Our first plan put the garden in the shade of a tall wall. When we noticed that most vegetables need plenty of sunlight, we went back to the drawing board. We moved the frame to a sunny patch and checked the ground again. Two students carried boards, three cleared stones, and others fetched tools. "Many hands make light work," said Mina as the frame came together before lunch.

3. By afternoon, the frame was ready, and the seeds were finally in the soil. Ravi began planning a huge tomato sale for next month. Mr. Lee smiled and said, "Don't count your chickens before they hatch." He reminded Ravi that seeds might not sprout, and even healthy plants need time to grow. Ravi decided to water the garden first and wait to see what actually grew.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does “Hold your horses” mean when Mr. Lee says it to Mina?

2. What does “went back to the drawing board” mean after the class notices the shade?

3. What does “Many hands make light work” mean as the class builds the frame?

4. What does “Don't count your chickens before they hatch” mean when Mr. Lee says it to Ravi?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences about a new situation outside the garden. Use one saying from the passage, and show what it means through what happens.

**ANSWER KEY**

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**GRADE 5 · 5.LF.12.b**

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline four sayings that mean more than their words alone, and circle a nearby detail that helps you figure out each meaning. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | What does “Hold your horses” mean when Mr. Lee says it to Mina? | **Slow down and wait before planting the seeds.** |
| 2 | What does “went back to the drawing board” mean after the class notices the shade? | **The class changed its plan and chose a sunnier place.** |
| 3 | What does “Many hands make light work” mean as the class builds the frame? | **The work is easier or faster when many people help.** |
| 4 | What does “Don't count your chickens before they hatch” mean when Mr. Lee says it to Ravi? | **Ravi should not plan on selling tomatoes before he knows they will grow.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our kite fell apart during its first test flight. We went back to the drawing board and changed the way we tied its sticks. The new kite stayed together in the wind.

Accept clear paraphrases that fit each saying's use in the passage. For Part 3, the new situation should show the chosen saying's meaning through actions, not just define it.