The Smallest Space

Use story details to explain choices and outcomes.

5.LF.16 "Demonstrate comprehension of varied literary and informational texts by utilizing its content when discussing or writing in response to the text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two choices that help protect the shoot. Circle a detail that explains why each choice matters, then use your marks in your answers.

A Space for the Shoot

1 On Monday, Maya found a tiny green shoot growing through a crack beside the school steps. A yellow sign announced that workers would pour new concrete there on Friday. Maya wanted to save the shoot, but the ground near the fence looked dry and hard. She tucked her lunch bag under her arm and drew a small circle around the plant with chalk. No one else seemed to notice it.

2 At recess, Maya showed the shoot to Leo, who worked in his grandfather's garden. Leo did not pull it up. He said moving a young plant could tear its roots. Instead, they asked the custodian what would happen to that part of the steps. Ms. Ortiz explained that the crew would repair the broken edge, not cover the whole patch. She offered to ask them to leave a little space around the shoot.

3 On Friday, the new concrete ended a few inches from the crack. The shoot still stood there, with two leaves lifted toward the sun. Maya returned the next week with a paper cup of water, but the soil was already damp from rain. She set the cup down and smiled. A small change in the repair plan had given the plant a chance to keep growing where it was.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why might Maya draw a chalk circle around the shoot? Support your idea with a detail from Monday.

2. Why do Maya and Leo ask Ms. Ortiz about the repair instead of moving the shoot? Use two details from the story.

3. How does Friday's result differ from what Maya feared on Monday? Use a detail from each day.

4. What does Maya's choice not to use the cup of water show about how she cares for the shoot? Support your answer with a detail.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine the school puts a sign beside the shoot. Write three or four sentences for the sign that explain a lesson about solving problems. Support your lesson with two details from the story.

ANSWER KEY

The Smallest Space

GRADE 5 · 5.LF.16

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two choices that help protect the shoot. Circle a detail that explains why each choice matters, then use your marks in your answers. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why might Maya draw a chalk circle around the shoot? Support your idea with a detail from Monday.	**She may want workers to notice and avoid the shoot. A sign says they will pour new concrete there on Friday.**
2	Why do Maya and Leo ask Ms. Ortiz about the repair instead of moving the shoot? Use two details from the story.	**Leo says moving the shoot could tear its roots. Asking Ms. Ortiz helps them learn whether the workers will cover that spot.**
3	How does Friday's result differ from what Maya feared on Monday? Use a detail from each day.	**On Monday, Maya fears the new concrete will cover the shoot. On Friday, the concrete ends a few inches from the crack, and the shoot is still standing.**
4	What does Maya's choice not to use the cup of water show about how she cares for the shoot? Support your answer with a detail.	**She pays attention to what the plant needs. The soil is already damp from rain, so she does not add water.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Pause and learn more before you act. Leo knew that pulling up the shoot might tear its roots. Maya and Leo asked Ms. Ortiz about the repair, and she helped leave space around the plant. Their questions gave the shoot a chance to grow.

Accept reasonable inferences supported by accurate passage details. For the sign, look for a useful lesson and two details that explain it.