Garden Fair Stories

Compare problems, solutions, and points of view in three short stories.

5.LF.21 "Compare and contrast characters, points of view, or events in two or more literary texts."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the problem in each story. Circle *I* or *she* where the word helps you tell whether a character or an outside narrator tells the story.

Three Stories from the Garden Fair

1. **Story 1: The Painted Sign.** Maya reached the school garden before the fair and saw that the wind had knocked down its welcome sign. One corner had snapped off. She wanted visitors to know where to enter, so she asked her friend Ben for tape. Together they fixed the corner and tied the sign to the fence. When the first visitors arrived, Maya pointed them toward the gate.

2. **Story 2: The Missing Labels.** I had promised to put name cards beside the garden plants, but a gust scattered them across the yard. I wanted to pretend I had never made the promise. Then I spotted Mrs. Chen searching for the cards. I told her what had happened, and we gathered them together. Some cards were muddy, so I rewrote their names before the visitors came.

3. **Story 3: The Empty Watering Can.** Nia noticed that the garden's watering can was empty just as the fair began. She hurried to the tap, but the handle would not turn. Instead of pulling harder, she asked the caretaker for help. He showed her a working tap behind the shed. Nia filled the can and offered it to visitors who wanted to water a plant.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do Maya and the speaker in Story 2 respond differently when their plans go wrong?

2. How do the speaker in Story 2 and Nia both get help? How are their helpers different?

3. Compare the endings of Stories 1 and 3. How does each character help visitors?

4. How is the point of view in Story 2 different from the points of view in Stories 1 and 3? Use words from the stories as evidence.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Retell the sign problem from Ben's point of view in four sentences using *I*. Keep the events from Story 1 the same, but add a thought or feeling Ben might have that makes his view different from Maya's.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 5 · 5.LF.21

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the problem in each story. Circle *I* or *she* where the word helps you tell whether a character or an outside narrator tells the story. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do Maya and the speaker in Story 2 respond differently when their plans go wrong?	**Maya asks Ben for help right away, while the speaker first wants to hide the mistake but then tells Mrs. Chen.**
2	How do the speaker in Story 2 and Nia both get help? How are their helpers different?	**Both work with an adult. Mrs. Chen helps gather scattered cards, while the caretaker shows Nia a working tap.**
3	Compare the endings of Stories 1 and 3. How does each character help visitors?	**Maya points visitors toward the gate. Nia offers visitors a watering can so they can water a plant.**
4	How is the point of view in Story 2 different from the points of view in Stories 1 and 3? Use words from the stories as evidence.	**The speaker in Story 2 tells their own story using "I." Outside narrators tell Stories 1 and 3, using "she" for Maya and Nia.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I reached the garden and saw Maya looking at the broken sign. I worried that our repair would not hold in the wind, but Maya was ready to try. When Maya asked me for tape, I brought it, and we fixed the corner and tied the sign to the fence. I watched her point the first visitors toward the gate.

Accept comparisons supported by details in the stories. For the open task, accept plausible thoughts or feelings for Ben if the response uses first person and preserves the events of Story 1.