Signs of Change

How print choices shape a story's tone

5.LF.26.a "Explain how visual and multimedia elements contribute to the overall meaning and tone of a text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the two messages in dark print and circle the sound in slanted print, then number them in the order they appear to track the story's changing tone.

The Garden Gate

1. On the first warm Saturday, Maya hurried to the neighborhood garden with a packet of bean seeds. A paper sign hung from the gate: **GARDEN CLOSED**. The thick, dark letters seemed to block her path even before she noticed the chain. Inside, empty planting beds waited under a layer of leaves. Maya held the seeds in her fist and wondered whether anyone would plant there again.

2. Then came a faint *scrape, scrape* from beyond the fence. Maya leaned closer. Mr. Lee was clearing leaves from the beds while two neighbors fixed a broken board near the gate. The chain was there to keep visitors away from loose wood, not to shut the garden forever. Maya loosened her grip on the seed packet and stayed to watch.

3. By afternoon, the board was secure, and Mr. Lee took down the old sign. He wrote a new one in thick letters: **GARDEN OPEN**. Maya pushed through the gate and pressed a bean seed into the soil. The bold words did more than announce a change of hours. They made the entrance feel welcoming, as if the whole block had a place to grow.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the dark print of the first sign add to the feeling Maya has when she reaches the gate?

2. How does the slanted print of *scrape, scrape* affect the tone before Maya sees who is inside?

3. Why does the dark print of the second sign make the ending feel hopeful?

4. How do the two signs work with Maya's actions to show the story's overall meaning?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence scene set in a school hallway during a power outage. Put one important word or short message in CAPITAL LETTERS, then write one sentence explaining how that print choice shapes the scene's meaning and tone.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the two messages in dark print and circle the sound in slanted print, then number them in the order they appear to track the story's changing tone. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the dark print of the first sign add to the feeling Maya has when she reaches the gate?	**The dark print makes the closed sign hard to miss. It adds to Maya's disappointment and makes the gate feel like a barrier.**
2	How does the slanted print of *scrape, scrape* affect the tone before Maya sees who is inside?	**It draws attention to a faint sound Maya cannot yet explain, making the moment feel mysterious.**
3	Why does the dark print of the second sign make the ending feel hopeful?	**It makes the news that the garden is open stand out. Maya can enter and plant her seed.**
4	How do the two signs work with Maya's actions to show the story's overall meaning?	**The first sign appears when Maya holds her seeds and cannot enter. The second appears before she plants one, showing that the garden has become a place for neighbors to use again.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The hallway went dark, and footsteps stopped. Someone clicked on a flashlight, and a voice called, "THIS WAY." We followed the beam to an open classroom door. The capital letters make the call stand out as a clear direction, changing the tone from nervous to relieved.

Accept answers that connect a visible print choice to a story detail and a supported tone. For question 2, students may describe the sound as mysterious, tense, or a hint that someone is nearby.