Words in the Garden

Use word parts and word choice to uncover meaning.

6.VL.27 "Discover word meanings by analyzing word parts, examining connotation and denotation, or using print or digital reference tools."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline replant and leafless, then circle the word part in each that helps you figure out its meaning. Find the two pairs of words that describe the same thing but create different feelings, and write 1 beside both words in one pair and 2 beside both words in the other.

A Garden of Different Words

1 On Monday, our class reached the school garden and found its gate hanging open. A cold night had bent several stems, and loose soil covered the path. Ms. Chen handed us small shovels. "We can replant these," she said, pointing to the flowers that had tipped over. Jada scooped soil back into the beds. I lifted a leafless stem and noticed tiny buds along its side. By lunch, the plants stood upright again, though the garden still looked a little wild.

2 At the far end of the garden, a patch of mint had spread beyond its wooden box. Its roots ran under the path and crowded the smaller herbs. "Stubborn mint!" I grumbled as a root snapped in my hand. Jada pointed to fresh shoots pushing through dry dirt. "I think it's persistent," she said with a smile. We pulled up the mint outside the box but left the rest to grow. The sharp smell of its leaves stayed on our fingers long after we washed our hands.

3 Near the fence, three beetles moved between stones. "More intruders," I muttered, reaching for a jar to move them. Jada leaned closer and saw that they were not chewing leaves or digging holes. "Maybe they're visitors," she said. I set the jar down. Ms. Chen told us to watch before deciding whether an insect was a problem. As the sun warmed the stones, the beetles slipped into the shade. Our word choices had changed, even though the beetles had not.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does re- mean in replant? What did the class plan to do?

2. What does -less mean in leafless? Which detail shows that the stem fits this word?

3. The narrator calls the mint stubborn, while Jada calls it persistent. Which word sounds more annoyed? Use a detail from the passage to explain.

4. Both intruders and visitors can name beings that arrive in a place. Which word makes the beetles sound unwelcome? What does Jada notice that supports her different choice?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences about a rainy recess. Use a word with a prefix or suffix and explain what that part means. Describe the recess with two words that have different feelings, and explain the difference.

ANSWER KEY

Words in the Garden

GRADE 6 · 6.VL.27

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline replant and leafless, then circle the word part in each that helps you figure out its meaning. Find the two pairs of words that describe the same thing but create different feelings, and write 1 beside both words in one pair and 2 beside both words in the other. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does re- mean in replant? What did the class plan to do?	**Re- means again. The class planned to put the tipped-over flowers back in the soil.**
2	What does -less mean in leafless? Which detail shows that the stem fits this word?	**-Less means without. The narrator notices buds on the stem but no leaves.**
3	The narrator calls the mint stubborn, while Jada calls it persistent. Which word sounds more annoyed? Use a detail from the passage to explain.	**Stubborn sounds more annoyed. The narrator grumbles when a root snaps, while Jada smiles at the fresh shoots.**
4	Both intruders and visitors can name beings that arrive in a place. Which word makes the beetles sound unwelcome? What does Jada notice that supports her different choice?	**Intruders makes the beetles sound unwelcome. Jada sees that they are not chewing leaves or digging holes.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Rain made our unplanned indoor recess feel like a surprise. In unplanned, un- means not, so the change was not planned. I could call the room lively or noisy: both suggest lots of sound, but lively feels cheerful and noisy feels irritating.

For the marking job, accept re- and -less as the circled parts and stubborn/persistent and intruders/visitors as the numbered pairs. In the open response, accept other accurate word parts and word pairs if the student clearly explains their meanings and different feelings.