Garden Sayings

Use context clues to uncover messages in familiar sayings.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.5.5b "Recognize and explain the meaning of common idioms, adages, and proverbs."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each idiom, adage, or proverb in the passage. Number them 1 through 4, then write one or two clue words in the margin that help show what each expression means.

A Garden Full of Sayings

1. On Saturday, Maya arrived at the community garden just as rain began to fall. She had planned to paint signs, but the wet ground made that impossible. Mr. Lee smiled and said, "Every cloud has a silver lining." Soon, the rain filled the dry water barrel, giving the gardeners water for the next week at no cost.

2. Later, three neighbors came with shovels and seed packets. Maya worried that the work would take all day. Mr. Lee pointed to the growing team and said, "Many hands make light work." The neighbors divided the jobs. One pulled weeds, one spread compost, and one planted beans. Before lunch, the garden beds were ready for seeds.

3. After the busy morning, Maya felt tired enough to hit the sack early. Her brother wanted to sleep late on Sunday, but Maya hoped to return at sunrise. Mr. Lee laughed and said, "The early bird catches the worm." At dawn, Maya chose the best bean seeds before the other gardeners arrived to start planting.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does "Every cloud has a silver lining" mean in the first paragraph? Use the rain to explain your answer.

2. What does "Many hands make light work" mean in the second paragraph?

3. What does the idiom "hit the sack" mean? Which detail in the paragraph helps you figure it out?

4. What message does "The early bird catches the worm" give? How does Maya's action show that message?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a two-sentence mini-scene that uses one common idiom, adage, or proverb not used in the passage. In the second sentence, show its meaning through an action or result without directly defining it.

ANSWER KEY

Garden Sayings

GRADE 5 · L.5.5b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each idiom, adage, or proverb in the passage. Number them 1 through 4, then write one or two clue words in the margin that help show what each expression means. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does "Every cloud has a silver lining" mean in the first paragraph? Use the rain to explain your answer.	**A problem can bring something good. The rain stopped Maya from painting signs, but it filled the water barrel.**
2	What does "Many hands make light work" mean in the second paragraph?	**When many people help, a big job becomes easier or is finished faster.**
3	What does the idiom "hit the sack" mean? Which detail in the paragraph helps you figure it out?	**It means go to sleep. Maya was tired after the busy morning and planned to do it early.**
4	What message does "The early bird catches the worm" give? How does Maya's action show that message?	**People who start early may get an advantage. Maya arrived at dawn and chose the best bean seeds first.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

When our class lost the first round of the quiz, Jordan said, "Don't cry over spilled milk." We studied our mistakes for the next round instead of complaining about the lost points.

Accept accurate, student-friendly paraphrases of each expression that match the passage context. For Part 3, accept any common idiom, adage, or proverb not used in the passage if the second sentence clearly shows its meaning through context.