

Who Does It Mean?

Find pronouns that leave readers unsure about the antecedent.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.6.1d "Recognize and correct vague pronouns (i.e., ones with unclear or ambiguous antecedents)."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each pronoun that could refer to more than one noun. Draw a line from each underlined pronoun to its possible antecedents.

Planning a Pollinator Garden

- ① On Saturday, the Riverbend Garden Club prepared a plot for native wildflowers. Maya and Jordan measured the sunny space beside the library. Maya placed wooden stakes in a box, then carried the box to the shed. Jordan recorded the plot's length and width on a clipboard. The club planned to grow bee balm, coneflower, and milkweed. These flowering plants can provide nectar or pollen for many insects. The students chose a site that receives several hours of sunlight each day and has room for labeled rows.
- ② Later, the club placed the compost bin beside the rain barrel before lunch. It needed a tight lid to keep animals away. During the cleanup, Maya handed Jordan a pair of gloves after she rinsed the tools. The group stored the gloves in a supply crate and washed soil from the trowels. By afternoon, the compost bin had its lid, and the rain barrel stood ready to collect water from a future storm near the roof.
- ③ Before leaving, Maya and Jordan reviewed the planting chart with Mr. Chen, the club adviser. He asked them to move the seed packets from the table to a cool cabinet. When the adviser pointed to the chart beside the calendar, it showed the first planting date. The chart listed bee balm, coneflower, and milkweed, all plants that can support pollinators. Mr. Chen wanted the students to label each row before they planted. Then the group locked the shed and carried the tools inside.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 In paragraph 2, what two nouns could the pronoun "It" in the second sentence refer to?

2 Rewrite the second sentence of paragraph 2 so it clearly states that the compost bin needed the lid.

3 In paragraph 2, which two people could "she" refer to in the sentence about rinsing the tools?

4 Paragraph 3 later tells that the chart listed plants. Rewrite the sentence beginning "When the adviser pointed" so readers know that the chart showed the first planting date.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write two sentences about a school activity. In the first sentence, use a pronoun that could refer to either of two named singular nouns. In the second sentence, revise the idea by replacing the vague pronoun with a clear noun.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each pronoun that could refer to more than one noun. Draw a line from each underlined pronoun to its possible antecedents. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 2, what two nouns could the pronoun "It" in the second sentence refer to?	The compost bin or the rain barrel.
2	Rewrite the second sentence of paragraph 2 so it clearly states that the compost bin needed the lid.	The compost bin needed a tight lid to keep animals away.
3	In paragraph 2, which two people could "she" refer to in the sentence about rinsing the tools?	Maya or Jordan.
4	Paragraph 3 later tells that the chart listed plants. Rewrite the sentence beginning "When the adviser pointed" so readers know that the chart showed the first planting date.	When the adviser pointed to the chart beside the calendar, the chart showed the first planting date.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The librarian set the poster beside the map, but it needed a brighter border. The poster needed a brighter border.

Accept any underlined pronouns that have two reasonable antecedents in the passage: "It" in paragraph 2, "she" in paragraph 2, and "it" in paragraph 3. Accept clear revisions that replace the vague pronoun with the intended noun or name while keeping the sentence's meaning.