Garden Word Parts

Use prefixes and suffixes to unlock word meanings.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.3.3a "Identify and know the meaning of the most common prefixes and derivational suffixes."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each word that has a prefix or a suffix that changes the word's meaning. Circle the prefix or suffix in each underlined word to show how word parts help you understand it.

Maya's Garden Crew

1. On Saturday, Maya joined a local garden crew. The workers pulled weeds and carried water to dry beds. Maya was hopeful when she saw tiny green shoots near the fence. A helpful neighbor showed her how to replant a loose tomato seedling. Soon, each plant stood straight, and the garden looked more colorful than before.

2. On Monday, the crew found that some leaves were colorless after a cold night. Maya did not feel helpless. She and another helper covered the beds with cloth. The cloth gave the plants a warmer space. By noon, the leaves looked less pale, and Maya's careful work had saved the smallest plants from the cold.

3. At the end of the month, Maya made a sign for the garden gate. She wrote, “Please be kind to the new plants.” Her sign asked visitors not to step on beds or pick flowers without asking. A small watering station let families refill cans. The garden's kindness brought neighbors together, even after the work was finished.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Find replant in paragraph 1. What does the prefix re- mean in this word?

2. Find colorless in paragraph 2. What does the suffix -less mean?

3. How are helpful and helpless different? Use the suffixes to explain.

4. What does kindness mean? Use the suffix -ness to help you.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences about helping at a place you know. Use three words with common prefixes or derivational suffixes, underline each word, and circle its prefix or suffix. In the third sentence, explain what one marked word means.

ANSWER KEY

Garden Word Parts

GRADE 3 · RF.3.3a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each word that has a prefix or a suffix that changes the word's meaning. Circle the prefix or suffix in each underlined word to show how word parts help you understand it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Find replant in paragraph 1. What does the prefix re- mean in this word?	**It means again, so replant means plant again.**
2	Find colorless in paragraph 2. What does the suffix -less mean?	**-less means without, so colorless means without color.**
3	How are helpful and helpless different? Use the suffixes to explain.	**Helpful means giving or full of help. Helpless means without help.**
4	What does kindness mean? Use the suffix -ness to help you.	**Kindness means the state or quality of being kind.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I __(re)painted__ the old bench, and our __help(ful)__ teacher brought brushes. The __dark(ness)__ faded when we turned on the lights. Darkness means the state of being dark.

Accept underlined words such as workers, hopeful, helpful, replant, colorful, colorless, helpless, helper, careful, refill, and kindness when the student correctly circles the meaningful prefix or derivational suffix. Do not require inflectional endings such as -ed, -ing, or -est.