Stormy Garden Sale

Find a story's message through a character's choices.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.2 "Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic; summarize the text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the problem Lena faces. Circle details that show how Lena and others respond, then number two circled details that help reveal the story's theme.

The Repaired Trellis

1. On Friday afternoon, Lena hurried to the school garden for Saturday's seedling sale. She had spent two weeks painting signs and tying young tomato plants to a wooden trellis. Dark clouds rolled over the playground, and rain began to pound the garden. By the time the storm stopped, the trellis had fallen, several signs were muddy, and Lena's careful display looked ruined.

2. Lena wanted to go home, but she remembered that the sale would pay for new library books. She carried the wet signs to the art room and wiped them clean. Then she asked Mr. Ortiz, the custodian, whether he had spare wood. He showed her how to brace the trellis. Lena called two classmates, who brought string and dry towels.

3. Early Saturday, the garden looked neat again. Lena placed a small card beside the repaired trellis that said, "Built together after the storm." Customers noticed the card and asked about the garden club. By noon, every tomato plant was sold. Lena smiled, not because her display had been perfect, but because people had worked together to save it.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What challenge does Lena face after the storm?

2. How does Lena respond to the challenge before her classmates arrive? Use two details from the story.

3. What is one theme of the story? Support your answer with two details.

4. Write a two-sentence summary of the story.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine that a strong wind blows the price list into a puddle just before the sale. Write a three-sentence ending that tells how Lena responds, what happens next, and a theme the ending shows.

ANSWER KEY

Stormy Garden Sale

GRADE 5 · RL.5.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the problem Lena faces. Circle details that show how Lena and others respond, then number two circled details that help reveal the story's theme. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What challenge does Lena face after the storm?	**The storm knocks down the trellis, makes the signs muddy, and ruins Lena's display.**
2	How does Lena respond to the challenge before her classmates arrive? Use two details from the story.	**She takes the wet signs to the art room and cleans them. She also asks Mr. Ortiz for spare wood, and he shows her how to brace the trellis.**
3	What is one theme of the story? Support your answer with two details.	**One theme is that working together can help people overcome problems. Lena asks Mr. Ortiz and her classmates for help, and together they repair the display so the sale can succeed.**
4	Write a two-sentence summary of the story.	**A storm damages Lena's garden sale display, including its trellis and signs. Lena cleans the signs, gets help repairing the trellis, and sells all the tomato plants with her classmates.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Just before the sale, wind blew the price list into a puddle. Lena asked a customer to hold the plants while she and her classmates made a new list on dry cardboard. The theme is that people can solve setbacks by working together.

Accept theme statements that are broad messages, not single-word topics, and that are supported by relevant details from the story. For the ending, accept reasonable actions and outcomes that clearly connect to a stated theme.