The Open Gate

Read a short story closely and trace a character's response to a problem.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.10 "By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, in the grades 6-8 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that show Lina's problem or her response to it, then number three moments when her response changes. This will help you follow how the story develops.

Plot 14

1. At the community garden, Lina arrived early to water plot 14 before school. She had promised Mr. Ortiz that the bean vines would be ready for Saturday's harvest. Instead, she found the gate swinging open and the soil dotted with deep paw prints. Several vines lay flat, their leaves torn. Lina gripped the empty watering can. "A dog got in," she said, though she had never seen a dog near the garden. The harvest was only two days away.

2. She wanted to run and tell Mr. Ortiz, but paused when she saw a thin blue collar caught on the broken gate latch. On it was a metal tag, scratched almost blank. Lina remembered that the new family in apartment 3B had a nervous brown dog named Comet. She set the can down and followed small prints toward the alley. At the corner, she heard a sharp whine behind recycling bins. "Comet?" Her voice shook, but she stepped closer.

3. Behind the bins, Comet trembled beside a tipped trash can, his leash twisted around a wheel. Lina knelt, speaking softly until he stopped pulling. When the leash came free, she guided him back to 3B, where a relieved boy opened the door. He explained Comet had slipped away during a delivery. Lina returned to the garden with the boy and his mother. Together they raised the vines, secured the latch with wire, and made a plan to protect the plot before Saturday.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What problem does Lina discover at the garden, and why does it matter right away?

2. What detail leads Lina to connect the dog at the garden with Comet?

3. How does Lina's response to the problem change from the first paragraph to the second paragraph? Use one detail from each paragraph.

4. What can you infer about Lina from her actions behind the recycling bins? Explain with evidence.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence journal entry from Lina's point of view after she returns to the garden. Include one observation from the garden, one thought about Comet, and one action Lina plans to take before Saturday.

The Open Gate

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details that show Lina's problem or her response to it, then number three moments when her response changes. This will help you follow how the story develops. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What problem does Lina discover at the garden, and why does it matter right away?	**A dog has entered the garden and damaged the bean vines. It matters because the harvest is only two days away.**
2	What detail leads Lina to connect the dog at the garden with Comet?	**She finds a thin blue collar caught on the broken gate latch and remembers that the family in 3B has a dog named Comet.**
3	How does Lina's response to the problem change from the first paragraph to the second paragraph? Use one detail from each paragraph.	**At first, Lina is upset and thinks about telling Mr. Ortiz. Then she investigates by following the paw prints and calling for Comet.**
4	What can you infer about Lina from her actions behind the recycling bins? Explain with evidence.	**Lina is caring and brave. Although her voice shakes, she steps closer, frees Comet, and guides him home.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

When I saw the vines standing again, I noticed the wire holding the repaired latch shut. Comet had not meant to ruin our plot, and he was probably scared when his leash caught. I will check the gate with the boy before Saturday's harvest. Helping him taught me that the damaged plants and the lost dog were connected problems.

Accept answers that accurately use details from the passage and make reasonable inferences about Lina's changing response. For the journal entry, accept varied first-person responses that include all required parts and remain consistent with the story.