Seeds of Resolve

Use text details to describe a character, setting, and event.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.9a "Apply grade 4 Reading standards to literature (e.g., "Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text [e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions]."),"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that show Mina's thoughts, words, or actions. Circle details that describe the lot or the rainstorm, so you can use specific details to describe the story deeply.

The Empty Lot

1 On Saturday morning, Mina carried a paper bag of bean seeds to the empty lot behind her apartment. The lot had cracked soil, a bent fence, and weeds taller than her knees. Mr. Ortiz, the neighbor who led the garden club, handed Mina a small shovel. "We can make this place useful," he said. Mina looked at the hard ground and gripped the shovel tighter.

2 At first, Mina dug only a few inches before stopping. Her arms ached, and she wished she had stayed inside to finish her comic book. Then she saw Mr. Ortiz kneeling beside a pile of rocks. Without being asked, he cleared them from the path one by one. Mina took a breath, moved to another patch, and kept digging until a neat row crossed the lot.

3 Near noon, dark clouds rolled over the rooftops. Rain began tapping the fence, and several children ran toward the apartment building. Mina covered the seed bag with her jacket, then called, "Wait, I need help with these trays!" Two children returned and carried the trays under a porch. When the rain slowed, Mina smiled at the muddy rows. "Next week, we may see sprouts," she told Mr. Ortiz.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the opening setting make gardening hard? Use two details from the passage.

2. What do Mina's thoughts and actions in the second paragraph show about her?

3. How does Mr. Ortiz's action with the rocks affect Mina? Use details from the passage.

4. Describe the rainstorm event and explain what Mina's response shows about her.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence character description of Mina. Use at least three details from different points in the story, including something she thinks, says, or does, and explain how she changes.

Seeds of Resolve

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details that show Mina's thoughts, words, or actions. Circle details that describe the lot or the rainstorm, so you can use specific details to describe the story deeply. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the opening setting make gardening hard? Use two details from the passage.	**The lot has cracked soil and tall weeds, so it is difficult to dig and prepare for planting.**
2	What do Mina's thoughts and actions in the second paragraph show about her?	**At first, Mina feels tired and unsure because her arms ache and she wishes she were reading. Then she becomes determined when she keeps digging until she makes a neat row.**
3	How does Mr. Ortiz's action with the rocks affect Mina? Use details from the passage.	**When Mina sees Mr. Ortiz clear rocks without being asked, she takes a breath, moves to another patch, and continues digging. His hard work helps motivate her.**
4	Describe the rainstorm event and explain what Mina's response shows about her.	**Rain begins, and other children run toward the building. Mina protects the seed bag and asks for help with the trays, showing that she is responsible and cares about the garden.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Mina is determined, even when the garden is difficult. At first, her arms ache and she wishes she were reading her comic book, so she seems unsure. After watching Mr. Ortiz clear rocks, she keeps digging until she makes a neat row. During the rain, she protects the seeds and asks for help, showing that she has become a responsible garden worker.

Accept answers that accurately use specific details from the passage to describe Mina, the setting, or the rainstorm event. For the open task, look for four sentences, at least three details from different parts of the story, and a clear explanation of Mina's change.