Creek Cleanup Change

Track how a character changes across the plot.

ELA.3.R.1.1 "Explain how one or more characters develop throughout the plot in a literary text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words and actions that show what Nia thinks or does at the beginning, middle, and end. Number each underlined clue 1, 2, or 3 to show how she changes.

Nia at the Creek

1. On Saturday morning, Nia carried a bag of gloves to the creek cleanup. She had signed up because her friend Omar asked her to come. When she saw muddy bottles and slimy wrappers along the bank, Nia stopped. "I can hand out water," she said. She did not want to touch the trash, even with gloves on. Omar quietly began filling a bag.

2. A sharp wind pushed a paper cup into the water. Nia watched it spin toward a group of ducklings near the reeds. She remembered that animals could get tangled in litter. Nia pulled on her gloves and grabbed a picker. At first, she picked up only dry paper. Then she reached for a wet soda can. Omar nodded and held the bag open.

3. By noon, the bank looked cleaner. Nia pointed to a patch of grass where small flowers could grow again. "Let's check behind the bridge," she said. Omar smiled because Nia was now leading the search. Before leaving, Nia asked the group to meet next month. She still disliked the muddy smell, but she knew the cleanup helped the creek and the animals that lived there.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does Nia act at the beginning of the story? Use one detail from the passage.

2. What makes Nia begin to change her mind about the cleanup?

3. How do Nia's actions change in the middle of the story?

4. How is Nia different by the end of the story? Give two details.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences that explain how Nia develops from the beginning to the end. In sentence one, tell how she starts. In sentence two, tell what changes her. In sentence three, tell how she acts at the end.

ANSWER KEY

Creek Cleanup Change

GRADE 3 · ELA.3.R.1.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words and actions that show what Nia thinks or does at the beginning, middle, and end. Number each underlined clue 1, 2, or 3 to show how she changes. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does Nia act at the beginning of the story? Use one detail from the passage.	**She avoids picking up trash and says she can hand out water instead.**
2	What makes Nia begin to change her mind about the cleanup?	**She sees a paper cup moving toward ducklings and remembers that litter can tangle animals.**
3	How do Nia's actions change in the middle of the story?	**She puts on gloves, gets a picker, and goes from picking up dry paper to picking up a wet soda can.**
4	How is Nia different by the end of the story? Give two details.	**She leads the search behind the bridge and asks the group to meet again next month.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the beginning, Nia avoids picking up trash and wants to hand out water. Seeing a cup move toward ducklings helps her understand that litter can hurt animals. By the end, she leads the search and plans another cleanup, showing that she wants to help.

Accept responses that explain Nia's change from avoiding the trash to taking an active role in the cleanup. Students should support their explanation with accurate beginning, middle, and end details from the passage.