

Garden Path Problem

Track plot events and identify a story's theme.

ELA.3.R.3.2 "Summarize a text to enhance comprehension. Include plot and theme for a literary text. Use the central idea and relevant details for an informational text."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three plot events, one from the beginning, middle, and end. Circle the sentence that tells the story's lesson, or theme, to help you summarize.

Garden Signs

- ① On Saturday, Maya carried a box of tomato plants to the community garden. She had promised to help her neighbor, Mr. Lee, plant them before noon. At the gate, Maya saw that a storm had knocked over several wooden signs. The garden paths were hard to follow. Families were arriving soon for a planting day.
- ② Maya wanted to begin planting right away, but Mr. Lee stopped at a fallen sign. He said people might step on new sprouts if they could not find the paths. Maya looked at the dark clouds and worried they would not finish. Then she picked up a hammer and helped Mr. Lee set the signs upright.
- ③ With the paths marked, visitors found their garden beds easily. Maya and Mr. Lee planted the tomatoes just as the first raindrops fell. Later, Maya noticed a small child reading one of the repaired signs. She smiled because the garden was safer for everyone. Maya learned that solving a problem first can help many people.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What beginning problem should a summary include?

2 What two actions in the middle show how Maya and Mr. Lee solve the problem?

3 What happens at the end of the story after the signs are repaired?

4 What theme does Maya learn?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a three-sentence summary of "Garden Signs." In sentence 1, tell the beginning problem. In sentence 2, tell the important actions. In sentence 3, tell the ending and the theme.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three plot events, one from the beginning, middle, and end. Circle the sentence that tells the story's lesson, or theme, to help you summarize. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What beginning problem should a summary include?	A storm knocked over the garden signs, so the paths were hard to follow.
2	What two actions in the middle show how Maya and Mr. Lee solve the problem?	Maya picks up a hammer, and she helps Mr. Lee set the fallen signs upright.
3	What happens at the end of the story after the signs are repaired?	Visitors can find their garden beds, and Maya and Mr. Lee plant the tomatoes before the rain.
4	What theme does Maya learn?	Solving a problem first can help many people.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A storm knocked down garden signs, making the paths hard to follow before a planting day. Maya and Mr. Lee repaired the signs before planting tomatoes. When visitors could find the paths safely, Maya learned that solving a problem can help many people.

Accept equivalent descriptions of the storm problem, repairing the signs, and the safe paths at the end. The summary should include key plot events in order and a theme about solving problems to help others.