Garden Clue Quest

Track plot events and infer a theme.

ELA.4.R.3.2 "Summarize a text to enhance comprehension. a. Include plot and theme for a literary text. b. Include the central idea and relevant details for an informational text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that introduces Mina's problem, number three events that move the plot forward, and circle two details that help you infer the story's theme.

Labels for the Garden

1. Mina carried a cardboard box to the community garden on Saturday. Her class had collected seed packets for the garden's spring planting. At the gate, Mina saw that rain had washed labels from every garden row. Without labels, volunteers would not know where to plant the seeds. Mina wanted to help, but she had promised her brother she would be home by noon.

2. First, Mina looked for clues in the damp soil. She found a small sign with a picture of a carrot near one row. Then she noticed tiny green sprouts in another row and remembered that beans climb. Mina made new labels from flat stones and wrote each plant's name with a marker from the tool shed.

3. Mina worked quickly, placing the labeled stones beside rows of carrots, beans, and lettuce. A volunteer arrived with a wheelbarrow and asked why Mina was doing the job alone. Mina explained that everyone needed clear labels. The volunteer helped finish the last rows. Mina reached home late but showed her brother a photo of the garden. He smiled and said the plants would have a fair start.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What problem begins the plot of the story?

2. What three actions does Mina take to solve the garden problem?

3. How is the problem resolved, and what happens to Mina afterward?

4. What theme can you infer from the story? Include one plot detail that supports your answer.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly three sentences that summarize the story. In sentence 1, name the character and problem. In sentence 2, tell the important actions and outcome. In sentence 3, state a theme.

ANSWER KEY

Garden Clue Quest

GRADE 4 · ELA.4.R.3.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that introduces Mina's problem, number three events that move the plot forward, and circle two details that help you infer the story's theme. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What problem begins the plot of the story?	**Rain washes the labels from the garden rows, so volunteers will not know where to plant seeds.**
2	What three actions does Mina take to solve the garden problem?	**She looks for clues, uses the clues to identify plants, and makes new stone labels.**
3	How is the problem resolved, and what happens to Mina afterward?	**A volunteer helps Mina finish labeling the rows, and Mina gets home late.**
4	What theme can you infer from the story? Include one plot detail that supports your answer.	**People can solve a shared problem by using their knowledge and helping one another. Mina uses clues to make labels, and a volunteer helps her finish.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Mina discovers that rain has washed the labels from the community garden rows, so volunteers cannot tell where to plant seeds. She uses clues to create stone labels, and a volunteer helps her finish before she goes home late. The story shows that people can solve shared problems by using their knowledge and helping one another.

Accept summaries that include Mina, the missing labels, her clue-finding and labeling actions, the volunteer's help, and a reasonable theme. Accept other themes if they are supported by details from the plot.