Garden Team Trail

Trace how a story's message grows through events and details.

ELA.5.R.1.2 "Explain the development of stated or implied theme(s) throughout a literary text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail in each paragraph that helps reveal the story's message about people working together. Number the details 1, 2, and 3 to show the order.

The Garden Chart

1. Maya signed up to water the school garden during spring break, but she wished she had chosen the art club instead. On Monday, she found the soil dry and a young tomato plant bent flat against the fence. She filled two heavy cans at the outdoor spigot, then watered every bed alone. By noon, her arms ached, and the garden still looked sad.

2. The next morning, Maya saw Mr. Ortiz, the custodian, carrying a box of fallen branches. She almost walked past him. Then she remembered the bent plant and asked whether he could help make a support. Mr. Ortiz brought twine, and Maya held the stem steady while he tied it gently. At lunch, Maya told three classmates about the dry beds. They returned with her after school.

3. By Friday, green leaves stood above the fence, and the class had made a watering chart. Maya painted small signs for each row, using skills she had wanted to use in art club. When Mr. Ortiz passed the garden, Maya called out thanks. She no longer saw the garden as a job she had to finish alone. It had become a place where people noticed needs and worked together.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What theme about working with others is suggested by Maya's problem in paragraph 1?

2. How do Maya's choices to ask Mr. Ortiz for help and tell her classmates about the dry beds develop the theme?

3. Which two details in paragraph 3 show the story's final message about teamwork? Explain what they show.

4. Explain how the theme develops from paragraph 1 to paragraph 3.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a theme different from the teamwork theme. Write exactly three sentences that state your theme and explain how one detail from each paragraph develops it.

ANSWER KEY

Garden Team Trail

GRADE 5 · ELA.5.R.1.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one detail in each paragraph that helps reveal the story's message about people working together. Number the details 1, 2, and 3 to show the order. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What theme about working with others is suggested by Maya's problem in paragraph 1?	**A problem can be difficult to solve when one person tries to handle it alone.**
2	How do Maya's choices to ask Mr. Ortiz for help and tell her classmates about the dry beds develop the theme?	**Her choices show that she begins to recognize that asking others to help can solve the garden's problems.**
3	Which two details in paragraph 3 show the story's final message about teamwork? Explain what they show.	**The class makes a watering chart, and Maya thanks Mr. Ortiz. These details show that people share responsibility and appreciate one another's help.**
4	Explain how the theme develops from paragraph 1 to paragraph 3.	**At first, Maya struggles with the garden alone. Then she asks others for help. By the end, the garden improves because people notice needs and work together.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

An unwanted responsibility can become meaningful when it helps others. In paragraph 1, Maya would rather attend art club than care for the garden. In paragraph 2, she helps save the tomato plant, and in paragraph 3, she uses art skills for the garden and sees it as an important shared place.

Accept equivalent theme statements when students support them with accurate details from all three paragraphs. For Part 3, check for exactly three sentences, a distinct theme, and one relevant detail from each paragraph.