Beyond the Fence

Track how details shape a character's view.

ELA.5.R.1.3 "Describe how an author develops a character's perspective in a literary text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words or actions that show Nia's thoughts and feelings about Mr. Bell, then number 1, 2, and 3 beside details that show how her perspective develops.

The Garden Gate

1 On Saturday, Nia carried her dented watering can toward the community garden. Near the gate, Mr. Bell stood beside a plot of tall sunflowers, wearing muddy boots and a serious frown. Nia had heard that he chased children away when they touched his plants. She gripped the can tighter and chose the narrow path farthest from him. The garden suddenly felt like a place with rules she did not know.

2 Then a gust pushed Nia's paper seed map from her pocket. It skittered under Mr. Bell's wheelbarrow. Before she could reach it, he knelt, picked it up, and brushed off the dirt. "You planned every row," he said, pointing to her careful labels. His voice was quiet, not sharp. Nia noticed a small watering can painted on the side of his old tool shed.

3 Mr. Bell led Nia to an empty bed near the fence. He explained that the soil there dried quickly, so he saved rainwater in barrels for young plants. Nia asked whether she could fill her can, and he handed her a scoop. As she watered the bed, she decided his frown might mean he was concentrating, not angry. She moved her seeds to the sunny plot beside his.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is Nia's first perspective of Mr. Bell? Use two details from the first paragraph to explain.

2. What event first causes Nia to question her first perspective of Mr. Bell? Explain why.

3. How do Mr. Bell's actions and words in the last paragraph develop Nia's perspective of him?

4. How is Nia's perspective at the end different from her perspective at the beginning? Give one detail that shows the change.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence scene about a character whose perspective of a person changes. Include the character's first thought, an event or conversation, and a final thought that shows the new perspective.

ANSWER KEY

Beyond the Fence

GRADE 5 · ELA.5.R.1.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words or actions that show Nia's thoughts and feelings about Mr. Bell, then number 1, 2, and 3 beside details that show how her perspective develops. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is Nia's first perspective of Mr. Bell? Use two details from the first paragraph to explain.	**Nia sees Mr. Bell as strict and possibly angry. She has heard he chases children away, notices his serious frown, and walks on the path farthest from him.**
2	What event first causes Nia to question her first perspective of Mr. Bell? Explain why.	**Mr. Bell retrieves and cleans Nia's seed map. His helpful action and quiet voice do not match her idea that he is harsh.**
3	How do Mr. Bell's actions and words in the last paragraph develop Nia's perspective of him?	**He leads her to an empty bed, explains how he saves water, and gives her a scoop. These helpful actions show Nia that he cares about plants and is willing to help her.**
4	How is Nia's perspective at the end different from her perspective at the beginning? Give one detail that shows the change.	**At the end, Nia thinks Mr. Bell's frown means concentration rather than anger. She shows trust by moving her seeds to the sunny plot beside his.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At first, Omar thought the new crossing guard was unfriendly because she never waved at students. When his backpack strap broke, she stopped traffic and helped him tie it with a bright red cord. "I keep extra cord for surprises," she said. Omar realized her quiet face hid a caring person, and he waved to her the next morning.

Accept reasonable paraphrases supported by details from the passage. Strong responses explain both Nia's perspective and how the author develops it through Nia's thoughts, Mr. Bell's dialogue, and his actions.