Garden Clue Hunt

Use details to draw sound conclusions.

ELA.K12.EE.3.1 "Make inferences to support comprehension."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB In each paragraph, underline two details that give you clues about what Maya or Mr. Ortiz knows, feels, or plans. In the margin, write one inference for each paragraph.

The Bean Bed Mystery

1. On Tuesday morning, Maya arrived at the school garden before the first bell. She carried a small watering can and checked the bean plants one by one. Several leaves had neat half circles missing from their edges. Maya did not call for the custodian. Instead, she crouched beside the bed and studied the damp soil near the stems.

2. At lunch, Maya showed her notes to Mr. Ortiz, the garden volunteer. He smiled when she pointed to a shiny trail on a nearby brick. Rather than spraying the plants, he placed a shallow dish of water beside the garden bed and set a wooden board on the soil. “Let us look again tomorrow,” he said. Maya nodded and left the damaged leaves where they were.

3. The next morning, Maya lifted the board carefully. Two slugs rested in the cool, shaded space beneath it. Mr. Ortiz moved them to a brushy area behind the school, far from the beans. Maya filled her notebook with a new plan: water the garden early, check under the board, and protect the plants without harming the animals. When the bell rang, she hurried inside with a grin.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What can you infer Maya thinks caused the missing parts of the bean leaves? Use two clues from the passage.

2. Why did Mr. Ortiz place a wooden board on the soil instead of spraying the plants?

3. What does Maya's new plan show about how she wants to care for the garden?

4. What does Maya's grin at the end suggest? Explain your inference with a detail from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly two sentences explaining what you can infer about the school garden from the passage. Include two details that support your inference.

ANSWER KEY

Garden Clue Hunt

GRADE 5 · ELA.K12.EE.3.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In each paragraph, underline two details that give you clues about what Maya or Mr. Ortiz knows, feels, or plans. In the margin, write one inference for each paragraph. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What can you infer Maya thinks caused the missing parts of the bean leaves? Use two clues from the passage.	**Maya suspects slugs are eating the leaves. Clues include the leaf damage, damp soil, and the shiny trail.**
2	Why did Mr. Ortiz place a wooden board on the soil instead of spraying the plants?	**He wanted to find and move the slugs without harming them or using spray. The board gives the slugs a cool, shaded place to rest.**
3	What does Maya's new plan show about how she wants to care for the garden?	**She wants to keep checking the problem and protect the bean plants in a humane way.**
4	What does Maya's grin at the end suggest? Explain your inference with a detail from the passage.	**It suggests that Maya feels pleased or proud because she found the slugs and has a plan to protect the beans.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The school garden is a place where students can study living things and solve problems. Maya takes notes and makes a plan, while Mr. Ortiz helps her observe the slugs.

Accept reasonable inferences that are supported by details in the passage. Students may use different clues if their explanation connects the clues clearly to their conclusion.