Garden Words Work

Study how word choices build a scene and show change.

3.T.SS.2 "Craft: Use language to interpret meaning and craft engaging texts."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words or phrases that help you picture, hear, smell, or feel the garden scene. In the margin, write what one underlined phrase helps you understand about Maya.

Maya's Garden Morning

1 Before school, Maya stood at the edge of the community garden. Dew sparkled on the bean leaves, and the air smelled like wet dirt. A small robin hopped beside the path. Its red chest flashed between the green plants. Maya held her breath when it stopped near her shoe, then laughed softly when it flew to the fence.

2 On a wooden sign, Maya read, "Pick only ripe beans." She touched one smooth pod and remembered her grandmother's soup. The garden did not feel empty anymore. It felt like a busy kitchen waiting for dinner. Maya's worried thoughts, which had followed her from home, loosened like a shoelace. She decided to ask Mrs. Lee how she could help.

3 Mrs. Lee handed Maya a watering can. Water pattered into the soil, making dark circles around the roots. Maya carried the can from bed to bed until her arms felt tired but strong. When the robin sang from the fence, she smiled. The garden now seemed to greet her, and her worries were smaller than the seeds tucked underground.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which phrase helps you smell the garden?

2. What does the comparison “a busy kitchen waiting for dinner” tell you about how the garden feels to Maya?

3. Which words show that Maya’s worried thoughts are becoming less strong?

4. How do the words “tired but strong” help show Maya’s change?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence scene about helping in a place outdoors. Include one sensory detail and one comparison that shows a feeling.

ANSWER KEY

Garden Words Work

GRADE 3 · 3.T.SS.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words or phrases that help you picture, hear, smell, or feel the garden scene. In the margin, write what one underlined phrase helps you understand about Maya. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which phrase helps you smell the garden?	**“the air smelled like wet dirt”**
2	What does the comparison “a busy kitchen waiting for dinner” tell you about how the garden feels to Maya?	**It feels busy and full of life instead of empty.**
3	Which words show that Maya’s worried thoughts are becoming less strong?	**“loosened like a shoelace”**
4	How do the words “tired but strong” help show Maya’s change?	**They show that she worked hard and feels capable of helping.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the park pond, I filled a bucket for the thirsty flowers. Cool water splashed my hands, and my shy feeling melted like ice in the sun. By the time I finished, the bright path looked like it was smiling at me.

Accept reasonable sensory words or phrases marked in the passage and an explanation of what one detail reveals about Maya or the setting. For the writing task, accept any three-sentence outdoor helping scene with a sensory detail and a comparison that clearly shows a feeling.