Seeds of Change

Notice how details, dialogue, and actions build a story.

3.T.T.1.a "Explain how narrative techniques are used to present ideas, design texts, and convey information about characters, setting, and plot. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that show the setting, circle words that show what Maya is like, and number the three main plot events. These techniques help you understand the character, place, and story events.

The Empty Lot

1. On Saturday morning, Maya carried a box of seed packets to the empty lot beside her apartment. Rain had washed the sidewalk clean, and puddles shone like small mirrors. A bent fence clicked in the wind. Maya looked at the muddy ground and whispered, "This place could be a garden if someone helps me."

2. Her neighbor Mr. Lee stepped outside with a broom. "I can help," he said. Maya smiled, but then she saw trash tucked under wet leaves. She wanted to quit, yet she remembered the bright tomatoes in her grandmother's yard. "Let's start with one corner," Maya said. She handed Mr. Lee a pair of gloves from the box.

3. By noon, two children from the building joined them. Maya showed them how to pull weeds without tearing the tiny green sprouts. Soon, three bags of trash stood by the fence. The lot still looked rough, but a clear patch of soil waited near the gate. Maya wiped her forehead and grinned. "Next week, we plant," she said.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which details in paragraph 1 help you picture the setting? Explain what they show.

2. How does the dialogue between Maya and Mr. Lee show their ideas about the lot?

3. What thought shows that Maya almost gives up? How does her memory help the plot move forward?

4. How do Maya's actions help move the plot from the beginning to the end?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write 3 or 4 sentences about a character who improves a place. Include one setting detail, one line of dialogue, and an action or thought that shows what the character is like.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details that show the setting, circle words that show what Maya is like, and number the three main plot events. These techniques help you understand the character, place, and story events. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which details in paragraph 1 help you picture the setting? Explain what they show.	**Details such as the empty lot, puddles, bent fence, and muddy ground show that the place is wet, messy, and uncared for.**
2	How does the dialogue between Maya and Mr. Lee show their ideas about the lot?	**Maya says the lot could be a garden, and Mr. Lee says he can help. Their dialogue shows that they want to improve the lot together.**
3	What thought shows that Maya almost gives up? How does her memory help the plot move forward?	**Maya wants to quit when she sees the trash. Remembering her grandmother's tomatoes helps her decide to keep working.**
4	How do Maya's actions help move the plot from the beginning to the end?	**Maya brings seeds, starts cleaning with Mr. Lee, shows others how to pull weeds, and plans to plant next week. Her actions change the lot from messy to ready for a garden.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the dusty bus stop, Eli saw a lost mitten under the bench. "I will hang it where someone can see it," he said. He tied the mitten to the sign, even though his fingers felt cold. When a small girl ran back smiling, Eli knew his choice had helped.

Accept reasonable setting details, dialogue, actions, and thoughts that are supported by the passage. For Part 3, accept 3 or 4 sentences that include all required techniques and show a clear character, setting, and event.