Sunflower Saves

See how story parts work together.

3.T.T.1.b "Explain how characters, setting, problem, and solution function in the plot. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words that tell about Maya, circle words that show the setting, write 1 by the problem, and write 2 by the solution so you can see how each part moves the story.

Maya's Sunflower

1. On Saturday morning, Maya carried her red wagon to the community garden at the end of Pine Street. Her grandfather had promised to help her enter the garden's sunflower contest. Rows of beans and tomatoes shone after the rain, and wet soil stuck to Maya's boots. She chose the tallest sunflower and measured it with a tape measure.

2. Then Maya saw that the sunflower's heavy head had bent low over the path. Its stem was cracked, and the flower could not stand straight for judging. Maya felt worried because the contest began in one hour. She did not want to pick the flower, but she knew that leaving it on the ground could damage the bright yellow petals.

3. Maya asked Grandfather for a bamboo stake and a strip of soft cloth. Together, they pushed the stake into the soil beside the stem. Maya gently tied the stem to the stake, leaving room for it to move in the wind. At judging time, the sunflower stood tall again, and Maya smiled when the judge gave it a blue ribbon.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does Maya's goal help start the plot?

2. How does the community garden setting help the story happen?

3. What problem changes Maya's plan for the contest?

4. How do Maya and Grandfather solve the problem, and how does the solution affect the ending?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence mini-story. In sentence 1, name a character and setting. In sentence 2, give the character a problem, in sentence 3 show a solution, and in sentence 4 tell how the solution changes the ending.

ANSWER KEY

Sunflower Saves

GRADE 3 · 3.T.T.1.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words that tell about Maya, circle words that show the setting, write 1 by the problem, and write 2 by the solution so you can see how each part moves the story. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does Maya's goal help start the plot?	**Maya wants to enter the sunflower contest, so she measures the tallest sunflower.**
2	How does the community garden setting help the story happen?	**The garden is where the sunflower grows and where the contest will be held.**
3	What problem changes Maya's plan for the contest?	**The sunflower's stem is cracked, and its heavy flower head bends low instead of standing straight.**
4	How do Maya and Grandfather solve the problem, and how does the solution affect the ending?	**They support the stem with a bamboo stake and soft cloth. The sunflower stands tall again and wins a blue ribbon.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the library after school, Jordan looked for a book about sharks. The book he wanted was on a high shelf, and he could not reach it. He asked the librarian for a step stool and safely took the book down. Because the problem was solved, Jordan could read the book for his science project.

Accept answers that identify Maya, the community garden, the bent and cracked sunflower stem, and the stake-and-cloth solution. For the open task, accept any logical four-sentence story that includes all four plot parts and explains the ending change.