Stormy Seedling

Notice how dialogue, details, and actions build a character's story.

3.T.T.1 "Narrative Techniques: Explain, analyze, and use narrative techniques to shape understandings."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the words characters say, underline details that show Maya's feelings, and number the three biggest events in order. These choices help you understand Maya's problem and hope.

The Bent Stem

1. On Saturday, Maya carried a small tomato plant to the community garden. Dark clouds covered the sun, and the wind tugged at her yellow raincoat. “We should hurry,” Grandpa said. Maya held the pot close to her chest. She had grown the plant from one tiny seed in a paper cup all spring at home.

2. At the gate, a strong gust knocked the pot from Maya’s hands. Brown soil spilled across the wet path. Maya stared at the bent stem. “My plant is ruined,” she whispered. Grandpa knelt beside her and pointed to the roots. “They are still covered,” he said. Maya took a slow breath and carefully lifted the plant.

3. Grandpa helped Maya make a deep hole near the fence. Together, they tucked the roots into the ground and pressed soft soil around them. Rain began to tap on the leaves. Maya smiled when she saw the stem stand a little straighter. “It might grow after all,” she said. As they walked home, Maya planned where she would place a stake tomorrow.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What action in the first paragraph shows that Maya cares about the tomato plant? What does this action help you understand?

2. How does Grandpa's dialogue help change Maya's understanding of the problem?

3. Which two setting details make the problem feel stormy and difficult?

4. What does Maya's plan to place a stake tomorrow show about her at the end of the story?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence story about a small problem that gets better. Include one line of dialogue, one detail that helps readers picture the setting, and one action that shows how the character feels.

ANSWER KEY

Stormy Seedling

GRADE 3 · 3.T.T.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the words characters say, underline details that show Maya's feelings, and number the three biggest events in order. These choices help you understand Maya's problem and hope. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What action in the first paragraph shows that Maya cares about the tomato plant? What does this action help you understand?	**Maya holds the pot close to her chest. This shows that the plant is important to her.**
2	How does Grandpa's dialogue help change Maya's understanding of the problem?	**Grandpa points out that the roots are still covered, helping Maya understand that the plant may survive.**
3	Which two setting details make the problem feel stormy and difficult?	**Dark clouds cover the sun, and a strong gust knocks the pot from Maya's hands. The wet path also adds to the stormy setting.**
4	What does Maya's plan to place a stake tomorrow show about her at the end of the story?	**It shows that Maya has hope that the tomato plant will grow.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Jalen gripped his kite as sharp wind whipped across the field. "The string is tearing!" he called. He tied a tight knot with shaking fingers and watched the red kite rise again. The bright cloth danced above him, and Jalen laughed.

For the writing task, accept varied problems and endings if all requested narrative techniques are included.