Garden Word Detectives

Use context and reference clues to choose precise meanings.

4.L.V.3 "Meaning & Purpose: Make connections between words and phrases and use reference materials to determine or clarify word meanings in a variety of settings and for a variety of purposes."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the words or phrases that help you determine the garden meaning of bed, plot, and yield, then write 1, 2, or 3 beside the clues for each word.

Words in the School Garden

1. At Riverbend School, students planned a vegetable garden beside the playground. The garden leader pointed to a long, raised box filled with soil. "This bed will hold lettuce," she said. Jalen first pictured a place for sleeping, but the box was clearly made for plants. He connected the word bed to other garden words, such as soil, seeds, and weeds.

2. Next, each team received a small plot, or piece of land used for one purpose. On the map, Plot A was shaped like a rectangle near the fence. The word plot can also mean a plan in a story, so Jalen checked a dictionary. Its garden meaning matched the map, the fence, and the teams working outdoors.

3. By summer, the plants produced a large yield of beans and tomatoes. The sign at the garden gate explained that yield means the amount a plant produces. Jalen compared this definition with the sentence before it. The list of vegetables showed that yield did not mean "give way," as it can on a road sign. He used the sign to clarify the word for visitors.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does bed mean in paragraph 1? Name two nearby words that help you decide.

2. Which meaning of plot fits paragraph 2, and which reference material does Jalen use to check it?

3. What phrase in paragraph 3 gives the meaning of yield?

4. Why would a visitor use the garden-gate sign, rather than a road sign, to clarify yield?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose bed, plot, or yield. In exactly two sentences, use a dictionary or glossary meaning that fits the garden passage, then explain how that meaning differs from another meaning of the word by using passage clues.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 4 · 4.L.V.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the words or phrases that help you determine the garden meaning of bed, plot, and yield, then write 1, 2, or 3 beside the clues for each word. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does bed mean in paragraph 1? Name two nearby words that help you decide.	**Bed means a raised place for growing plants. Helpful words include soil, lettuce, seeds, weeds, and plants.**
2	Which meaning of plot fits paragraph 2, and which reference material does Jalen use to check it?	**Plot means a small piece of land used for one purpose. Jalen uses a dictionary.**
3	What phrase in paragraph 3 gives the meaning of yield?	**"The amount a plant produces."**
4	Why would a visitor use the garden-gate sign, rather than a road sign, to clarify yield?	**The garden sign explains yield as the amount plants produce, while a road sign uses yield to mean give way.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A dictionary says plot can mean a small piece of land, and that meaning fits the team's rectangle near the fence. This differs from a story plot because the map and outdoor work show that the passage means land.

Accept equivalent dictionary or glossary meanings that fit the garden setting. For the open task, check for exactly two sentences, a fitting meaning, a different possible meaning, and passage clues that support the choice.