Seeds of Meaning

Use details to infer feelings and a larger idea.

4.P.EICC.3.f "Make, track, and support inferences about different levels of meaning within the text. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details that help you infer Maya's feelings or the story's larger idea. Write F beside each feeling clue and M beside each larger-idea clue.

The Garden Bed

1. On Saturday, Maya brought a shoebox to the community garden. Inside were seed packets her grandfather had saved, each labeled in his careful handwriting. Maya had planned to plant them with him. But that morning, her mother said Grandpa was too tired to leave his apartment. Maya set the box beside an empty garden bed and pressed her lips together.

2. Then Maya noticed Leo, a younger child, staring at the bare bed. "Are those flowers?" he asked. Maya nodded, though she did not open the box. Leo pointed to a sign that read, "Neighbors Grow Here," and said his balcony had no room for plants. Maya looked at Grandpa's labels again. She handed Leo a trowel and chose the sunflower seeds.

3. By noon, several neighbors had joined them. Maya showed Leo how deep to place each seed, just as Grandpa had shown her. When the bed was covered, she took a photo and sent it to him. His reply came a few minutes later: "That garden looks busy." Maya smiled and wrote back, "It is waiting for you."

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What can you infer Maya feels when Grandpa cannot come to the garden? Give two clues from the passage.

2. Why does Maya hand Leo a trowel and choose the sunflower seeds? Support your inference with one detail.

3. What does Maya mean when she writes, "It is waiting for you"? Explain what the words mean beyond the garden bed.

4. What larger idea does the story show about sharing seeds? Use two details to support your answer.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose one detail from the passage that you did not use in your answers above. Write two sentences: state an inference about a character, then explain how that detail supports your inference.

ANSWER KEY

Seeds of Meaning

GRADE 4 · 4.P.EICC.3.f

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three details that help you infer Maya's feelings or the story's larger idea. Write F beside each feeling clue and M beside each larger-idea clue. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What can you infer Maya feels when Grandpa cannot come to the garden? Give two clues from the passage.	**Maya feels sad or disappointed. She had planned to plant with Grandpa, and she presses her lips together after learning he is too tired to come.**
2	Why does Maya hand Leo a trowel and choose the sunflower seeds? Support your inference with one detail.	**Maya decides to share the seeds and include Leo. She sees him looking at the bare bed and learns that his balcony has no room for plants.**
3	What does Maya mean when she writes, "It is waiting for you"? Explain what the words mean beyond the garden bed.	**Maya means that she hopes Grandpa will feel better and come to the garden. She wants him to know that he is still welcome to join the neighbors.**
4	What larger idea does the story show about sharing seeds? Use two details to support your answer.	**Sharing seeds can bring people together and carry on what someone taught you. Maya shares with Leo, several neighbors join them, and she teaches Leo as Grandpa taught her.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I infer that Grandpa feels proud because Maya is using what he taught her. His message, "That garden looks busy," shows that he notices the garden is helping people.

Accept reasonable inferences about Maya, Grandpa, or the story's larger idea when students support them with a specific passage detail. For the open task, check for two sentences, an inference, and an explanation tied to a different detail.