Garden Letter Clues

Use details to identify a text's time, writer, and situation.

4.T.C.2.c "Identify the context in which a text is written (e.g., time period, individual, situational). (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline clues that tell when this letter was written, circle clues about the writer, and box clues that show the writer's situation. Use these marks to identify the letter's context.

A Garden Letter

1. June 18, 1944. Dear Cousin Elena, our town asked families to grow vegetables in small gardens this summer. Mother and I planted beans beside the back fence. The grocery store has fewer canned foods because many supplies are being sent to soldiers. I saved seeds from last year's squash so we can plant more next week.

2. Yesterday, a neighbor showed us how to use kitchen scraps in a compost pile. We need every bit of food we can raise, so no one wastes peelings or wilted leaves. My brother Tom wants to join the army when he is older. For now, he carries water to the garden before school and checks for hungry bugs.

3. At school, our teacher says the garden is one way children can help during the war. I miss you, Elena, and I hope your family is safe in New Mexico. When you visit after the harvest, I will make soup with our beans and squash. Please write back and tell me whether you have a garden, too.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What time period was this letter written in? Give two clues from the letter.

2. What do you learn about the individual who wrote the letter? Give two details.

3. What situation is the writer's family facing? Explain why they are growing vegetables and saving scraps.

4. Who is the letter written to, and why did the writer send it?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence note from a child in a different situation. Include clues that show when the note is written, who the writer is, and why the writer is writing, but do not name the time period directly.

ANSWER KEY

Garden Letter Clues

GRADE 4 · 4.T.C.2.c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline clues that tell when this letter was written, circle clues about the writer, and box clues that show the writer's situation. Use these marks to identify the letter's context. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What time period was this letter written in? Give two clues from the letter.	**It was written in 1944 during World War II. Clues include the date, supplies being sent to soldiers, and the teacher mentioning the war.**
2	What do you learn about the individual who wrote the letter? Give two details.	**The writer is a school-aged child who is Elena's cousin and Tom's sibling. The writer helps grow a garden.**
3	What situation is the writer's family facing? Explain why they are growing vegetables and saving scraps.	**The family has less food available at the grocery store because supplies are going to soldiers. They grow food and use scraps so they do not waste anything.**
4	Who is the letter written to, and why did the writer send it?	**It is written to Cousin Elena. The writer shares news about the garden, checks on Elena's family, and asks whether Elena has a garden.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Dear Nia, I am writing from the school library on the first snow day of winter. Our class is collecting blankets for the animal shelter after last night's storm. Please bring one when you visit tomorrow. Your friend, Owen.

Accept reasonable answers that use passage evidence to identify the 1944 wartime setting, the child writer, and the family's food-saving situation. For the note, accept any three sentences with clear clues about time, the writer, and the reason for writing.