Garden Decision

Track how opposing characters shape a story.

4.T.T.1.b "Describe how the text's protagonist and antagonist function in the plot, drive the conflict, and contribute to the development of other characters. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline Nia's actions to solve the problem, circle Mr. Vale's words or actions that block her, and write 1 or 2 beside details that show Theo changing because of the conflict.

The Empty Lot

1. On Saturday, Nia carried seedlings to the empty lot beside her apartment building. She wanted to make a shared garden, but Mr. Vale, the building manager, planned to cover the lot with gravel for extra parking. "Gardens make messes," he said. Nia's younger brother, Theo, shrugged. He liked the idea of parking closer to home.

2. Nia drew a garden map and invited neighbors to a meeting. Mr. Vale posted a notice saying workers would bring gravel on Monday. Nia felt worried, yet she asked Theo to help measure sunny spots. As they worked, Theo noticed that the lot could grow food for Mrs. Chen, who had trouble walking to the store. He began carrying water buckets.

3. At the meeting, Nia showed her map and Theo described Mrs. Chen. Mr. Vale argued that gravel would be easier to care for. Then several neighbors offered to weed and water. Seeing their plan, Mr. Vale agreed to save half the lot for garden beds. Theo, once doubtful, made a sign that read, "Everyone Can Help."

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Who is the protagonist, and what goal starts the plot?

2. How does Mr. Vale function as the antagonist? Include the conflict he creates and one way it moves the plot forward.

3. How do Nia's actions help Theo change? Use details from the passage.

4. How does Mr. Vale's plan help cause Theo to change from the beginning to the end of the story?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence mini-story. Include a protagonist with a goal, an antagonist who blocks it, and another character who changes because of the conflict. Make clear how each character affects the plot.

ANSWER KEY

Garden Decision

GRADE 4 · 4.T.T.1.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline Nia's actions to solve the problem, circle Mr. Vale's words or actions that block her, and write 1 or 2 beside details that show Theo changing because of the conflict. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Who is the protagonist, and what goal starts the plot?	**Nia is the protagonist. Her goal is to turn the empty lot into a shared garden.**
2	How does Mr. Vale function as the antagonist? Include the conflict he creates and one way it moves the plot forward.	**Mr. Vale opposes the garden because he wants gravel parking. His plan and Monday notice push Nia to make a map and gather neighbors for a meeting.**
3	How do Nia's actions help Theo change? Use details from the passage.	**Nia asks Theo to measure sunny spots with her. He sees that the garden could help Mrs. Chen, so he begins carrying water buckets.**
4	How does Mr. Vale's plan help cause Theo to change from the beginning to the end of the story?	**At first, Theo likes the parking idea. Because the conflict leads him to help Nia plan the garden, he later carries water and makes a sign inviting everyone to help.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Jalen wanted to build a bird feeder in the school courtyard. Ms. Ortiz, the custodian, said he could not use the old wood because it had splinters. Her rule made Jalen find safe boards, and his friend Ava learned to use a ruler as she helped measure them. When Jalen showed their careful plan, Ms. Ortiz gave them new wood, and Ava asked to build another feeder.

Accept equivalent responses that identify Nia as the protagonist and Mr. Vale as the opposing character, with accurate passage evidence. For Part 3, accept any four-sentence story that clearly shows a goal, opposition, plot movement, and another character's change.