Seeds of Meaning

Use clues to infer a character's change and the story's message.

5.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 show what Lila may be thinking or feeling, number them 1–3, and write a brief inference in the margin beside each one.

The Garden Sale

1. On Saturday, Lila entered the community garden carrying a box of seed packets. Rain had soaked the paths, and the garden beds were empty except for a few bent tomato cages. Mr. Chen, the garden leader, stood beside a broken sign. "The spring sale is next week," he said, "but we may have to cancel it." Lila set the box down without speaking.

2. At home, Lila spread the packets across her kitchen table. Each envelope showed a bright flower or crisp vegetable. She remembered last year's sale, when neighbors traded recipes and children painted rocks for the paths. Lila picked up her phone, then put it face down. "Someone else will handle it," she told her brother. Still, she tucked the seed packets into her backpack before bed.

3. By Monday, Lila had made a list of classmates who might help. At lunch, she asked the art club to paint new signs and the cooking club to share simple garden snacks. Mr. Chen smiled when he saw the list. "You saved our sale," he said. Lila looked at the muddy garden. "No," she replied, "we saved it by working together."

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What can you infer about Lila's reaction when Mr. Chen says the sale may be canceled? Use two details from the first paragraph to support your inference.

2. What does Lila's choice to pick up her phone, put it down, and later pack the seed packets suggest about her thoughts? Support your answer with those actions.

3. How does Lila's thinking change from the second paragraph to the third paragraph? Use one detail from each paragraph.

4. What larger message about a community does the story suggest? Support your inference with one event from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a two-sentence ending for the story after the sale. Include one literal action and one line of dialogue that suggests a message about community without stating the message directly.

ANSWER KEY

Seeds of Meaning

GRADE 5 · 5.P.EICC.3.f

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three details that show what Lila may be thinking or feeling, number them 1–3, and write a brief inference in the margin beside each one. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What can you infer about Lila's reaction when Mr. Chen says the sale may be canceled? Use two details from the first paragraph to support your inference.	**Lila is worried or disappointed about losing the sale. The rain-soaked, empty beds, broken sign, and Mr. Chen's words about canceling support this inference.**
2	What does Lila's choice to pick up her phone, put it down, and later pack the seed packets suggest about her thoughts? Support your answer with those actions.	**She is thinking about helping but is unsure whether she should take responsibility. Putting down the phone shows hesitation, while packing the seeds shows she still cares about the garden.**
3	How does Lila's thinking change from the second paragraph to the third paragraph? Use one detail from each paragraph.	**At first, Lila says that someone else will handle the problem. Later, she makes a helper list, asks clubs to join, and says that "we" saved the sale.**
4	What larger message about a community does the story suggest? Support your inference with one event from the passage.	**A community can solve problems when people work together and share responsibility. Lila brings different clubs together to help save the garden sale.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the sale, Lila watched neighbors carry trays of seedlings to families, and she added a hand-painted sign beside the gate. When Mr. Chen thanked her, she pointed to the busy paths and said, "There are many hands in this garden."

Accept supported inferences that may use different feeling words, such as concerned, disappointed, hesitant, or responsible. For the open response, accept varied endings if they contain two sentences, an action, dialogue, and an implied message about people helping one another.