The Garden Plan

Trace how a character's change reveals a theme.

8.T.T.1.c "Analyze how authors convey and reveal themes through characters, events, and plot structure. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one event in each paragraph that moves the problem toward a solution. Circle words or actions that show Maya's thinking changes, then number the three plot stages 1, 2, and 3.

A Place for Every Need

1. On Saturday, Maya arrived at the neighborhood garden with a clipboard and a plan. The city had offered one small grant, but residents had to choose between repairing the broken fence or buying a water tank. Maya wanted the fence. After someone stole her aunt's tomatoes, she believed a stronger barrier would solve everything. At the meeting, she ignored Mr. Chen's warning that dry beds would soon produce nothing. Her list ended with fence, fence, fence.

2. The next morning, Maya found Mr. Chen carrying buckets from his apartment. She followed him to the garden and saw seedlings bent beneath dusty soil. Near the gate, two younger children tried to fill a cracked jug from a hydrant, spilling most of the water. Maya's clipboard suddenly seemed useless. Instead of arguing at the next meeting, she asked each neighbor what they needed most. Their answers did not match, but everyone mentioned the garden's future.

3. By evening, Maya redrew her plan. The grant would buy a tank, and volunteers would repair the fence with donated wood over two weekends. Maya gave the first speaking turn to Mr. Chen, then asked the children to design signs reminding visitors to close the gate. When rain finally reached the new tank, the garden was still imperfect, but it belonged to more people than before. Maya tucked away her old list, leaving one blank line at the bottom.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does Maya believe will solve the garden's problem at the beginning? How does this belief create conflict?

2. Which event changes Maya's thinking most clearly? Explain how it changes what she does next.

3. How does the order of events, from the first meeting to the final plan, show Maya's growth as a character?

4. What theme does the author develop? Use two details from the passage to support your answer.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five-sentence analysis of how the author develops a theme in "A Place for Every Need." State a theme, then explain how Maya's character change, key events, and the beginning-to-ending plot structure reveal that theme.

ANSWER KEY

The Garden Plan

GRADE 8 · 8.T.T.1.c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one event in each paragraph that moves the problem toward a solution. Circle words or actions that show Maya's thinking changes, then number the three plot stages 1, 2, and 3. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does Maya believe will solve the garden's problem at the beginning? How does this belief create conflict?	**She believes repairing the fence will solve everything. Her focus on the fence makes her ignore Mr. Chen's concern that the garden needs water.**
2	Which event changes Maya's thinking most clearly? Explain how it changes what she does next.	**Maya sees dry seedlings and children spilling water from a cracked jug. She stops arguing and asks neighbors what they need most.**
3	How does the order of events, from the first meeting to the final plan, show Maya's growth as a character?	**Maya begins with one narrow solution, learns by seeing the water problem and listening to others, then creates a plan that includes both needs.**
4	What theme does the author develop? Use two details from the passage to support your answer.	**A shared problem is best solved by listening and working together. Maya asks each neighbor what is needed, and the group buys a tank while volunteers repair the fence.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The passage develops the theme that a community solves shared problems by listening and working together. At first, Maya focuses only on a fence because theft has made her afraid, so she ignores Mr. Chen's concern about water. Seeing dry seedlings and children spill water causes her to ask neighbors what they need. In the ending, the group buys a tank and repairs the fence with donated wood, combining ideas instead of choosing one person's plan. By moving from Maya's narrow list to a blank line for new ideas, the plot shows that she has learned to include others.

Accept theme statements that are supported by the character's change and the plot events, such as listening, cooperation, or considering multiple needs. In the open response, look for a clear theme and accurate explanation of Maya's beginning, turning point, and ending.