Seeds and Footprints

Read a story and use details to explain what happens.

4.RC "Students comprehend grade-level text, including fiction and nonfiction, and can demonstrate their comprehension orally and through writing."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that show how Nia and Leo solved the planting problem, and circle one detail that shows their relationship changing.

Before the Rain

1. On Monday, Nia carried a paper bag of bean seeds to the school garden. Her class had promised to plant them before the rain came. At the gate, she stopped. The soil was hard as a brick, and the watering cans were empty. Across the path, Leo, the new student, watched from a bench. Nia had never heard him speak in class.

2. Nia pushed a small shovel into the ground, but it barely made a mark. Leo walked over and pointed to a pile of fallen leaves beside the fence. "We could spread those on top after we water," he said. "My grandmother does that so the soil stays damp." Nia found a hose near the shed. Together they soaked the ground until it was soft enough to dig.

3. By the time the last seed was covered, dark clouds filled the sky. Nia laid the leaves around each planted spot, leaving space for the bean sprouts to rise. When the first drops fell, she held the gate open for Leo. "Will you check the garden with me tomorrow?" she asked. Leo smiled and nodded. The next morning, two sets of muddy footprints led to the garden.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why couldn't Nia plant the seeds at first, and how did she and Leo fix the problem?

2. Why was Leo's idea about the leaves useful even after they found the hose?

3. How does Nia's relationship with Leo change? Use two details from the story.

4. What do the two sets of muddy footprints suggest happened the next morning? What earlier detail supports your idea?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence diary entry from Leo's point of view about planting day. Include two details from the story and show how his feelings might change.

ANSWER KEY

Seeds and Footprints

GRADE 4 · 4.RC

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details that show how Nia and Leo solved the planting problem, and circle one detail that shows their relationship changing. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why couldn't Nia plant the seeds at first, and how did she and Leo fix the problem?	**The soil was too hard to dig, and the watering cans were empty. Nia and Leo used a hose to soak the soil until it was soft enough to dig.**
2	Why was Leo's idea about the leaves useful even after they found the hose?	**The leaves would help the watered soil stay damp, as Leo said his grandmother had taught him.**
3	How does Nia's relationship with Leo change? Use two details from the story.	**At first, Leo watches from a bench, and Nia has never heard him speak in class. After they work together, Nia invites him to check the garden with her.**
4	What do the two sets of muddy footprints suggest happened the next morning? What earlier detail supports your idea?	**They suggest Nia and Leo went to the garden together. Nia had invited Leo to return, and he nodded.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At first, I sat on the bench and felt unsure about joining Nia. When I saw the hard soil, I told her how my grandmother uses leaves to keep it damp. After we planted the seeds together, I felt happy when Nia asked me to return tomorrow.

Accept reasonable inferences supported by story details. Leo's feelings in the diary entry may vary because the story does not state them directly.