Small Garden Rescue

Notice how words and details reveal character.

4.W.3.c "Use dialogue and descriptive details to develop events and reveal characters' personalities, feelings, and responses to situations."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two lines of dialogue that show how a character responds to the problem, and circle two details that show a character's feelings or personality.

Before the Garden Tour

1. Just before the school garden tour, a gust tipped the tray of seedlings. Pots rolled across the path, and dark soil scattered over Mia's white sneakers. "The visitors will be here soon!" Mia cried, staring at the bent stems. Ben knelt beside a tiny tomato plant. "Let's see what we can save," he said, brushing dirt from a leaf with one careful finger.

2. Mia reached for a pot, but her hands shook, and it slipped again. Ben set the plant upright and pressed soil around its roots. "I always make things worse," Mia whispered. Ben shook his head. "You spotted the loose roots before I did. Hold this pot while I find more soil." Mia took a slow breath and steadied the pot with both hands.

3. Together they tucked the seedlings back into their pots. When the first visitors turned the corner, Mia noticed one stem leaning. She gently tied it to a short stick with soft string. "This one needed a little help," she told the visitors, her voice clear now. Ben grinned as Mia showed them the other plants. A few crumbs of soil still marked her sneakers, but she did not look down.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does Mia's line “I always make things worse” show about how she feels after the tray tips?

2. What does Ben's careful touch on the tomato leaf show about his personality?

3. How do the details about Mia's hands show a change in her response to the problem?

4. Compare how Mia speaks to the visitors with how she speaks when the tray first tips. What has changed?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five- or six-sentence scene about two classmates whose paper bridge breaks just before a class test. Include two lines of dialogue and at least two descriptive details that show how the classmates feel or respond.

ANSWER KEY # Small Garden Rescue

GRADE 4 · 4.W.3.c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two lines of dialogue that show how a character responds to the problem, and circle two details that show a character's feelings or personality. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does Mia's line “I always make things worse” show about how she feels after the tray tips?	**Mia doubts herself and worries that she has made the problem worse.**
2	What does Ben's careful touch on the tomato leaf show about his personality?	**It shows that Ben is gentle and careful with the plants.**
3	How do the details about Mia's hands show a change in her response to the problem?	**At first her hands shake and she drops a pot. Later she takes a slow breath and holds the pot steady, showing that she is calming down and helping.**
4	Compare how Mia speaks to the visitors with how she speaks when the tray first tips. What has changed?	**At first Mia cries out because she is worried. Later her voice is clear as she tells the visitors about a plant, showing that she feels more confident.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The paper bridge sagged under the last block, and its middle folded with a soft crunch. Eli's cheeks grew hot as he pulled his hands away. “We have to show it in one minute!” he blurted. Jo traced the crease with a steady finger and said, “We can fold another strip for support.” Eli took a deep breath and held the bridge while Jo tucked the strip underneath. When the bridge held one block, Eli smiled, and Jo's eyes lit up.

Accept answers that connect a specific line of dialogue or descriptive detail to a supported feeling, trait, or change in response. For the writing task, look for five or six sentences with two lines of dialogue and at least two details that develop the classmates' responses.