The Book Box

Use story details to understand choices and change.

5.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 Read the story. Underline one detail that shows what Imani worries about, and circle two details that show how the neighbors respond.

The Book Box

1 On Monday, the little book box outside the apartment building leaned sideways. Its door hung open, and rain had curled the pages of the books inside. Imani wanted to fix it before the younger children came home from school, but she had only a screwdriver. She slipped a note under her neighbor Mr. Chen's door: "Do you have a hammer I could borrow?"

2 Mr. Chen arrived with a hammer, a level, and a sheet of plastic. When he saw the soaked books, he frowned. Imani thought he might be upset with her for waiting until the rain stopped. Instead, he said, "I built this box years ago. I should have checked its door." Together they straightened the box, covered its roof, and set the wet books aside to dry.

3 By evening, three other neighbors had brought dry books. A child taped a sign to the door: "Take one. Leave one if you can." Imani noticed that the sign did not demand a book from anyone. The next morning, she found a picture book missing and a paper star tucked in its place. On the star, someone had written, "I will bring it back."

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does Imani think Mr. Chen's frown means? What does he say that changes her understanding?

2. How do the neighbors' actions change the book box by evening? Give two details.

3. Why might Imani notice that the sign says, "Leave one if you can"?

4. What does the paper star suggest about the person who took the picture book? Use a detail from the story.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a new scene in which Imani helps start a different shared project in the building. Show her using something she learned from fixing the book box, and include one accurate detail from the story.

ANSWER KEY

The Book Box

GRADE 5 · 5.RC

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Read the story. Underline one detail that shows what Imani worries about, and circle two details that show how the neighbors respond. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does Imani think Mr. Chen's frown means? What does he say that changes her understanding?	**She thinks he is upset that she waited to fix the box. He says he built it and should have checked its door.**
2	How do the neighbors' actions change the book box by evening? Give two details.	**Mr. Chen helps straighten and cover the box, and three other neighbors bring dry books. A child also adds a sign.**
3	Why might Imani notice that the sign says, "Leave one if you can"?	**The sign lets people take a book even if they do not have one to leave, so more people can use the box.**
4	What does the paper star suggest about the person who took the picture book? Use a detail from the story.	**The person plans to return the book. The message on the star says, "I will bring it back."**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

When the hallway plants began to droop, Imani asked Mr. Chen if he could help her find a watering can. She remembered that he had brought tools when she asked for help with the book box. Together they watered the plants and left a note inviting neighbors to take turns. Soon, two neighbors added their names to the note. Imani smiled because the plants would not have to depend on just one person.

Accept reasonable inferences supported by story details. For the new scene, look for a different shared project, an accurate detail from the passage, and an action that shows Imani applying what she learned.