Seeds of Change

Trace how a character's choices develop a theme.

7.RC.2 "Analyze the development of a theme or central idea over the course of a work of literature; provide a detailed summary that supports the analysis."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail in each paragraph that shows how Lena's approach to help changes. Number the details 1, 2, and 3 in story order.

The Seed Exchange

1. On Saturday morning, Lena arranged seed packets on the library's exchange shelf. She had drawn tiny pictures on labels and written careful planting directions. When Mr. Imani offered to help, Lena pointed to her sign: "Please ask before touching." Last spring, someone had put tomato seeds under the pepper sign, and Lena had spent hours finding the mistake. She wanted this exchange to work, so she kept the spare labels and the packet box behind the desk, where only she could reach them.

2. By noon, a line stretched past the return slot. Lena answered every question herself while Mr. Imani waited beside the shelf. Then a gust from the open door scattered several unsealed envelopes and the labels Lena had not attached yet. She dropped to her knees, but she could not match every label to its seeds. Mr. Imani recognized his bean seeds by the blue stamp on each envelope. A younger visitor recognized the sunflower seeds she had brought. Lena handed them the box and asked them to help her start over.

3. They finished matching the seeds before closing time. Mr. Imani stamped the bean envelopes, and the younger visitor wrote matching numbers on each remaining label and envelope. Lena taped a new sign beside the shelf: "Know a seed? Help us label it." On Monday, she found three new packets with names and planting notes written in different handwriting. One held purple basil seeds Lena had never grown. She placed it on the shelf instead of hiding it behind the desk, then made room for a blank notebook where neighbors could share what they learned.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do Lena's first sign and her choice to keep supplies behind the desk establish a problem the story explores?

2. How does the scattered-seed problem begin to change Lena's approach? Use what Mr. Imani and the visitor each know.

3. What does Lena's decision about the purple basil packet show about how her thinking has changed?

4. How do the words on Lena's two signs help develop a theme about caring for a shared project?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one paragraph of 85 to 110 words that summarizes the important events in order and explains how a theme develops from the beginning to the end. Include at least two specific details from different parts of the story.

ANSWER KEY

Seeds of Change

GRADE 7 · 7.RC.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one detail in each paragraph that shows how Lena's approach to help changes. Number the details 1, 2, and 3 in story order. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do Lena's first sign and her choice to keep supplies behind the desk establish a problem the story explores?	**Lena wants the exchange to succeed but tries to protect it by controlling the supplies and limiting others' help.**
2	How does the scattered-seed problem begin to change Lena's approach? Use what Mr. Imani and the visitor each know.	**Lena cannot match every label alone. Mr. Imani recognizes his stamped bean envelopes, and the visitor recognizes her sunflower seeds, so Lena asks them to help.**
3	What does Lena's decision about the purple basil packet show about how her thinking has changed?	**She displays a seed she does not know instead of keeping it behind the desk, showing she is willing to learn from others.**
4	How do the words on Lena's two signs help develop a theme about caring for a shared project?	**The first sign asks people not to touch the shelf without permission. The second invites people to help label seeds, showing that Lena has come to value shared knowledge and responsibility.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At first, Lena tries to protect the library's seed exchange by controlling the supplies because someone misplaced seeds the year before. When a gust scatters unsealed envelopes, she cannot match all the labels herself. Mr. Imani recognizes his beans, and a visitor recognizes her sunflower seeds, so Lena lets them help. Together they match the seeds and add numbers to prevent another mix-up. Lena posts a new sign inviting help. When new packets arrive, she displays an unfamiliar kind and sets out a notebook for neighbors. Her choices show that sharing responsibility can make a project stronger.

Accept other supported themes about trust, cooperation, or shared knowledge. A strong summary follows the events in order and connects Lena's changing choices to the theme.