Words That Grow

Use precise words to explain how bean plants grow.

L.4.4.d "Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, including those that signal precise actions and that are basic to a particular topic."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline four words that name exact actions, and circle two words for bean plant parts or stages so you can use them to explain what happens.

From Seed to Seedling

1. At our school, a class plants bean seeds in small pots. Before planting, students loosen the soil with a spoon so the young roots can move through it. They press one seed into each pot and cover it with a thin layer of soil. Then they moisten the soil with a little water. The soil feels damp, not muddy.

2. Over the next few days, the students inspect the pots each morning. They look for a tiny shoot above the soil, but most changes begin out of sight. A bean seed can germinate when it has enough water, air, and warmth. During germination, the seed coat splits, and a root grows down into the soil before the shoot rises.

3. Once a shoot appears, the young plant is called a seedling. Its first leaves open as it grows toward the light. The students rotate the pots so different sides face the sunny window. They measure the seedlings with a ruler each Friday and record the heights in a notebook. These notes help them compare how much the plants grow from week to week.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does loosen mean in the first paragraph? Use a clue from the passage.

2. What does moisten tell you about how much water the students add? Use a clue from the passage.

3. What does germinate mean in the passage? Name one change that shows it is happening.

4. What is a seedling? Which clue in the passage helps you know?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences explaining how you would organize a classroom library. Use at least two exact action verbs not used in the passage and two words specific to books or libraries.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline four words that name exact actions, and circle two words for bean plant parts or stages so you can use them to explain what happens. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does loosen mean in the first paragraph? Use a clue from the passage.	**Loosen means make the soil less packed so young roots can move through it.**
2	What does moisten tell you about how much water the students add? Use a clue from the passage.	**They add a little water, enough to make the soil damp but not muddy.**
3	What does germinate mean in the passage? Name one change that shows it is happening.	**It means a seed begins to grow. Its seed coat splits, or a root grows down into the soil.**
4	What is a seedling? Which clue in the passage helps you know?	**A seedling is a young plant. The passage says the plant gets this name once a shoot appears.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

First, sort the books by genre so stories of the same kind stay together. Next, scan each spine to read the title. Finally, shelve the books with their spines facing out.

For the marking job, accept precise actions such as loosen, press, moisten, inspect, rotate, measure, and record. Accept plant terms such as root, shoot, seed coat, and seedling.