Where Rain Goes

Use context clues to see how precise words explain a rain garden.

RI.5.4 "Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words or phrases in a grade-level text, and analyze how those words and phrases shape meaning."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline impermeable, permeable, filter, and temporarily. Circle a nearby clue for each word, then use the clues to think about why each word matters.

A Garden for Rain

1. After a hard rain, water races across the pavement outside Pine Street School. The pavement is impermeable, so water cannot soak through it. Instead, the water becomes runoff, flowing toward a storm drain. Along the way, it can carry bits of litter and soil. The school plans a rain garden beside the sidewalk to slow this rush of water.

2. A rain garden is a shallow dip in the ground filled with plants and loose soil. Unlike pavement, its soil is permeable: water can pass through spaces between the grains. Plant roots help keep the soil from washing away. As water sinks, the soil can filter out some particles carried by the runoff. This does not make dirty water safe to drink, but it can keep some material out of drains.

3. The garden holds water temporarily, not forever. After a storm, some water sinks into the ground, and plants take up some through their roots. If rain falls faster than the soil can take it in, the garden may get too full and overflow toward a drain. The school must clear away trash and replace worn plants so the garden can keep working during future storms.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does impermeable mean? How does that word help explain why runoff forms on the pavement?

2. What does permeable mean in the second paragraph? Why is it important that the garden's soil is permeable?

3. What does filter mean here? How does the word help explain what the soil does to runoff?

4. What does temporarily mean? Why would the sentence be less accurate without it?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a different word from the passage, not one you underlined. Write three sentences: explain its meaning using a nearby clue, replace it with a less exact word, and tell what detail the reader would lose.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline impermeable, permeable, filter, and temporarily. Circle a nearby clue for each word, then use the clues to think about why each word matters. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does impermeable mean? How does that word help explain why runoff forms on the pavement?	**Impermeable means water cannot soak through. Because the pavement blocks the water, it flows across the surface as runoff.**
2	What does permeable mean in the second paragraph? Why is it important that the garden's soil is permeable?	**Permeable means water can pass through. It explains how rainwater can sink into the garden's soil instead of staying on the surface.**
3	What does filter mean here? How does the word help explain what the soil does to runoff?	**Filter means to remove some particles as water passes through. The word shows that the soil can keep some material out of drains, but does not make the water safe to drink.**
4	What does temporarily mean? Why would the sentence be less accurate without it?	**Temporarily means for a limited time. Without it, a reader might think the garden holds the water forever, rather than letting some sink in or be taken up by plants.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Overflow means that extra water spills out, as the clue “too full” suggests. I could replace overflow with “move.” That change would hide the fact that the water leaves because the garden cannot hold any more.

Accept meanings supported by the passage and explanations of how each word makes the water's movement or the garden's limits clearer. For Your Turn, accept any word other than the four marked words if the clue, replacement, and lost detail fit the passage.