Clues in the Garden

Read closely, then rethink a first guess.

RL.4.10 "Routinely and flexibly develop and apply background knowledge along with a variety of comprehension strategies to understand and analyze grade-appropriate, complex literary text independently."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two clues that make Lina suspect Theo, circle two clues that suggest another cause, and write 1 beside the moment that proves what happened.

The Missing Marigolds

1. When Lina reached the school garden, the row of marigolds looked like a line of broken teeth. Their orange flowers were gone, though the stems still stood. Across the path, Theo held a pair of scissors and a fistful of orange petals. Yesterday he had complained that the tall flowers hid the tomato plants he was watching. Lina folded her arms. Had Theo cleared the row while no one was watching?

2. Theo headed for the back fence before Lina could ask. A tuft of white hair clung to a loose board, and small, split tracks crossed the damp soil. Lina remembered how the neighbor's white goat had once chewed her notebook cover. Still, why was Theo carrying scissors? She followed him, stepping around the crushed flowers. On the other side of the fence, the goat stared at her.

3. With a shove of its nose, the goat slipped through the gap and bit the last marigold. Theo used his scissors to cut a length of string, then tied the loose board in place. 'I found these on the ground,' he said, opening his hand to show Lina the petals. Lina's face warmed. She had seen the scissors first and almost missed everything else.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why does Lina first suspect Theo? Use two details from the story.

2. What other explanation could Lina make from the white hair and split tracks? Use something she knows to explain your answer.

3. Why do the scissors stop being a clue that Theo cut the flowers?

4. What does Lina's final thought suggest about using clues? Support your answer with an event from the story.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 3- or 4-sentence continuation set the next morning. Give Lina a new garden mystery, show her first guess and a clue she sees, then use something she knows to explain why she changes her mind.

ANSWER KEY

Clues in the Garden

GRADE 4 · RL.4.10

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two clues that make Lina suspect Theo, circle two clues that suggest another cause, and write 1 beside the moment that proves what happened. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why does Lina first suspect Theo? Use two details from the story.	**Theo has scissors and orange petals, and he complained the flowers hid the tomato plants.**
2	What other explanation could Lina make from the white hair and split tracks? Use something she knows to explain your answer.	**The neighbor's goat may have eaten the flowers. Lina knows it chews things, and the hair and tracks point to an animal near the plants.**
3	Why do the scissors stop being a clue that Theo cut the flowers?	**Lina sees Theo use the scissors to cut string so he can tie the loose fence board in place.**
4	What does Lina's final thought suggest about using clues? Support your answer with an event from the story.	**One clue can lead to a wrong guess. Lina noticed Theo's scissors first, but watching the goat bite a marigold showed her what happened.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The next morning, Lina found seeds spilled beside the shed and guessed a bird had knocked over their jar. Then she watched the wind swing the loose shed door into the jar on a low shelf, tipping it again. Lina knew a strong wind could move a loose door, so she changed her guess: the door had spilled the seeds.

Accept answers that connect a reasonable inference to specific story clues. In the continuation, the new clue must support the changed explanation, not just Lina's first guess.