Beneath the Buckets

Use story clues and what you know to rethink a first impression.

RL.5.10 "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 As you read, underline two clues about Grandfather's plan and circle a detail that changes the narrator's first idea. Write 1 beside the narrator's first idea and 2 beside the later idea.

The Night Garden

1 By late afternoon, the garden's tomato plants stood as tall as my knees. Grandfather carried three empty buckets down the path. "The forecast says frost tonight," he said. I knew plants needed sunlight, so when he turned each bucket upside down over a plant, I thought he was giving up on them. I almost told him there was no point in hiding plants that would soon die.

2 Grandfather pressed the bucket edges into the soft dirt. "Will they get enough air?" I asked. "Until morning," he said, brushing soil from his hands. The wind slid across the yard, cold enough to sting my ears. I stared at the covered plants and pictured their leaves turning brown beneath the plastic. Yet Grandfather set his alarm for sunrise and placed the watering can by the door.

3 At dawn, a thin white crust glittered on the grass. Grandfather lifted the buckets, and I leaned close. The tomato leaves were green, not brown. "The covers held in some warmth," he said. I remembered how a blanket helps me stay warm, even though it does not make heat of its own. I helped carry the buckets back to the shed. Next time, I would ask before deciding I understood.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did what the narrator knew about sunlight shape the first idea about the buckets? Why was that idea incomplete?

2. Before you reach the last paragraph, which two clues suggest Grandfather plans to help the plants, not give up on them?

3. Which detail makes the narrator change the first idea? What does the narrator understand instead?

4. Why might Grandfather have set his alarm for sunrise? Use what you learned about the buckets to explain.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

The next day, Grandfather sets a shallow dish of water beside the plants, though the soil is still wet. In three or four sentences, predict why he put it there, support your prediction with one detail from the story and something you know about living things, and tell how you would check your idea.

ANSWER KEY # Beneath the Buckets

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

As you read, underline two clues about Grandfather's plan and circle a detail that changes the narrator's first idea. Write 1 beside the narrator's first idea and 2 beside the later idea. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did what the narrator knew about sunlight shape the first idea about the buckets? Why was that idea incomplete?	**The narrator knew plants need sunlight and thought covering them meant Grandfather had given up. The narrator had not considered that the buckets could protect the plants from frost overnight.**
2	Before you reach the last paragraph, which two clues suggest Grandfather plans to help the plants, not give up on them?	**He presses the bucket edges into the dirt and sets an alarm for sunrise. His plan follows the forecast of frost.**
3	Which detail makes the narrator change the first idea? What does the narrator understand instead?	**The leaves are green when Grandfather removes the buckets. The narrator understands that the covers helped protect the plants from the cold.**
4	Why might Grandfather have set his alarm for sunrise? Use what you learned about the buckets to explain.	**He likely wanted to remove the buckets after the cold night so the plants could get sunlight again.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I think Grandfather put the dish there for birds to drink. He got up at sunrise to protect the tomato plants, so he seems to care about living things in his yard. Birds need water, and wet soil may not give them an easy place to drink. I would watch the dish from the window to see whether birds visit.

Accept other reasonable predictions for the dish, such as water for insects, if the response includes a story detail, relevant background knowledge, and a way to check the idea. For the marking job, accept any two clues that reasonably support Grandfather's plan.