Where Gardens Go

Read for clues that change what a character believes.

RL.7.10 "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 details that help you understand Mara's first plan for the basil, circle two details that change your thinking about Grandma's plan, and number your marks in reading order.

Pieces of Summer

1 By the time Mara reached the courtyard, the basil bushes were waist high to her little brother. Their leaves smelled like pepper and summer whenever she brushed past. Now Grandma stood among them with kitchen scissors and a paper bag. She snipped the green tips and dropped them inside. All week, the weather report had warned of a hard frost, so Mara had brought an old sheet to cover the garden. Grandma did not even look at it. Another stem fell, and Mara folded the sheet under her arm.

2 "You're taking the best parts," Mara said. Grandma held up a stem with four leaves. "Exactly." At home, she pinched off its lower leaves and set the bare end in a glass of water. She did the same with six more stems and placed the glasses on a shelf away from the chilly window. Mara watched through the glass as rain struck the courtyard. She had pictured the sheet as a roof that could keep summer in place. Instead, Grandma had carried pieces of summer upstairs.

3 That night, frost silvered the courtyard. By morning, the basil left in the ground had turned dark and limp, although the sheet still lay folded by the door. Mara wanted to say Grandma had been right, but the bare stems in the glasses looked no more alive than pencils. Two weeks later, fine white roots curled through the water. Grandma filled small pots with soil and let Mara plant the cuttings. Mara looked down at the courtyard, then back at the shelf. The garden had not stayed where she had put it.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Before you reach paragraph 3, what does the warning of a hard frost lead you to predict about the basil outside? Which later detail checks your prediction?

2. Reread Grandma's reply, "Exactly." What does Mara think Grandma is doing, and what do Grandma's later actions show she intends to do?

3. What does Mara's comparison of the bare stems to pencils tell you about her thoughts then? Which detail makes you reconsider her view?

4. Reread the final sentence. How has Mara's idea of where the garden belongs changed? Use a detail from the beginning and one from the end.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four- to six-sentence scene set one week after Mara plants the cuttings. Give her a new problem with the indoor basil and show how she uses what she learned about protecting it from cold.

Where Gardens Go

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details that help you understand Mara's first plan for the basil, circle two details that change your thinking about Grandma's plan, and number your marks in reading order. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Before you reach paragraph 3, what does the warning of a hard frost lead you to predict about the basil outside? Which later detail checks your prediction?	**The basil outside will be damaged by the cold. By morning, it has turned dark and limp.**
2	Reread Grandma's reply, "Exactly." What does Mara think Grandma is doing, and what do Grandma's later actions show she intends to do?	**Mara thinks Grandma is taking away the best parts of the plants. Setting stems in water and later planting their rooted cuttings show that Grandma intends to grow new basil indoors.**
3	What does Mara's comparison of the bare stems to pencils tell you about her thoughts then? Which detail makes you reconsider her view?	**Mara doubts the stems are alive or can grow. The white roots that appear two weeks later challenge that view.**
4	Reread the final sentence. How has Mara's idea of where the garden belongs changed? Use a detail from the beginning and one from the end.	**At first, Mara tries to protect the basil in the courtyard with a sheet. By the end, she sees that cuttings from those plants can grow indoors in pots.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

One morning, Mara noticed that a pot had been moved against the chilly window. Its leaves drooped toward the glass. She carried it back to the warmer shelf where Grandma had kept the stems in water. Mara checked that the soil was damp, then turned the pot so its leaves faced the light. She could not carry the courtyard upstairs, but she could make room for this piece of it.

Accept reasonable inferences supported by the passage, including uncertainty about the stems before their roots appear. For Part 3, look for a new problem, a plausible choice that protects the basil from cold, and consistency with the story.