

Garden Teamwork

Find a story message, its supporting details, and important events.

3R2 "Determine a theme or central idea and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize portions of a text. (RI&RL)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details that show students working together. Number the details 1, 2, and 3 to help you find the story's message.

Saving the School Garden

- ① On Monday, Maya found the school garden drooping in the hot sun. The garden club had planted beans, tomatoes, and sunflowers, but the hose had cracked over the weekend. Maya wanted to carry water from the fountain by herself. Then she saw the long rows of dry soil and knew she could not save every plant alone.
- ② At lunch, Maya told the club what she had seen. Luis brought empty milk jugs from the cafeteria, and Priya asked the custodian for a large bucket. Other students poked tiny holes in the jugs. They filled the bucket at the fountain and took turns carrying it. Soon, each student used a jug to drip water slowly beside a plant.
- ③ By Friday, new green leaves stood up along the bean rows. The tomatoes looked better too. Maya thanked everyone for helping, but Luis pointed to the jugs lined beside the garden. "One person might have watered a few plants," he said. "All of us found a way to water the whole garden." The club decided to keep the jugs for future dry days.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What message, or theme, does this story show?

2 Which two details from paragraph 2 support the theme?

3 Summarize paragraph 1 in one sentence.

4 How does Luis's statement in paragraph 3 support the story's theme?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a four-sentence summary of the story. Tell what happens at the beginning, middle, and end, and state the message the characters learn.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three details that show students working together. Number the details 1, 2, and 3 to help you find the story's message. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What message, or theme, does this story show?	Working together can help people solve a problem that is too big for one person.
2	Which two details from paragraph 2 support the theme?	Answers may include: Luis brought milk jugs, Priya got a bucket, students made holes in the jugs, or students took turns carrying water.
3	Summarize paragraph 1 in one sentence.	Maya found the garden dry because the hose had cracked, and she realized she could not water all the plants alone.
4	How does Luis's statement in paragraph 3 support the story's theme?	He explains that one person could water only a few plants, but the whole group could water the entire garden.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Maya found the school garden dry because its hose had cracked. She and the garden club made watering tools from milk jugs and took turns carrying water. By Friday, the plants looked better. The story shows that people can solve a big problem by working together.

Accept equivalent statements of the theme about cooperation solving a shared problem. Summaries should include the broken hose, the group's watering plan, the improved garden, and the message.