

Words at Work

Notice how precise language and punctuation shape a garden story.

4L3 "Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three words or phrases that give a clear, exact picture, and circle each question mark and exclamation mark to notice how punctuation adds feeling.

Maya's Garden Note

- ① On Saturday morning, the school garden woke slowly. Dew clung to the bean leaves, and a robin tugged a worm from the soft soil. Maya carried a shallow basket along the path. She did not rush. First, she checked each tomato plant for dry, curled leaves. Then she poured water close to the roots, where the plants could drink it.
- ② Near the fence, Maya spotted a bright orange tag on a drooping squash vine. "What happened here?" she wondered. A hungry beetle had nibbled small holes through several leaves. Maya gently lifted the vine and brushed away the beetle. "You cannot have our squash!" she said. Her firm words sounded playful, not angry, because she smiled as she worked.
- ③ Before leaving, Maya wrote a note for the garden club: "Please bring gloves, hand trowels, and empty jars next week." The list named exactly what helpers needed. At the bottom, she added, "Can you help us protect the young plants?" Her question invited classmates to join the work. By choosing clear, specific words, Maya made her note easy to understand and friendly.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which word tells exactly how the beetle ate the leaves?

2 How does the word "drooping" help you picture the squash vine?

3 What feeling does the exclamation mark add to Maya's words, "You cannot have our squash!"?

4 Why is the phrase "empty jars" clearer than simply saying "jars"?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences inviting classmates to a school cleanup. Name at least two specific supplies, and use either a question mark or an exclamation mark to give your invitation energy.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three words or phrases that give a clear, exact picture, and circle each question mark and exclamation mark to notice how punctuation adds feeling. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which word tells exactly how the beetle ate the leaves?	nibbled
2	How does the word “drooping” help you picture the squash vine?	It shows that the vine was hanging downward, not standing up straight.
3	What feeling does the exclamation mark add to Maya’s words, “You cannot have our squash!”?	It adds firm, playful energy to her words.
4	Why is the phrase “empty jars” clearer than simply saying “jars”?	It tells helpers that the jars should not have anything in them.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Please bring gloves, a small trash bag, and a water bottle to our school creek cleanup. We will collect litter along the walking trail. Can you help keep the creek clean?

Accept equivalent explanations of how precise words create a clear picture or make directions more exact. For the open response, check for exactly three sentences, two or more specific supplies, and a correctly used question mark or exclamation mark.