

Garden Turning Point

Trace how each paragraph builds a story's plot and theme.

6R5 "In literary texts, analyze how a particular sentence, paragraph, stanza, chapter, scene, or section fits into the overall structure of a text and how it contributes to the development of theme/central idea, setting, or plot..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number the paragraphs 1, 2, and 3. Underline one sentence in each paragraph that shows its job in the plot, setup, problem or turning point, or resolution.

The Courtyard Garden

- ① On Saturday morning, Nia unlocked the gate to the apartment courtyard with a rusted key. The small garden inside had brown basil, cracked soil, and one drooping tomato plant. At Monday's tenant meeting, the owner would decide whether to pave the space for parking. Nia had promised her neighbors that she would show the garden could still feed people. She spent the morning watering, pulling weeds, and searching the tool shed for anything useful to repair.
- ② By noon, dark clouds rolled over the roofs, and rain began to pound the courtyard. Water washed Nia's seedlings from their paper cups and turned her neat rows into mud. She wanted to quit, because the meeting was only two days away. Then Mr. Alvarez from the third floor brought empty milk jugs. He showed Nia how to cut holes in them so rainwater could drain without carrying soil away. Together, they replanted the seedlings.
- ③ On Monday evening, Nia placed the repaired planters beside the meeting-room door. Before the owner arrived, Mr. Alvarez and four other neighbors stopped to add their names to a list of people willing to care for the garden. Nia no longer had to speak alone. When the owner saw the list and tasted a basil leaf, she delayed the paving plan for one year. The courtyard was not perfect, but it had become a project the building shared.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How does paragraph 1 set up both the setting and the main problem Nia faces?

2 How does the sentence "She wanted to quit" fit into the structure of paragraph 2?

3 How does Mr. Alvarez's action in paragraph 2 help develop a theme of the story?

4 How does paragraph 3 resolve the conflict and strengthen the story's central idea?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence paragraph that could fit between paragraphs 2 and 3. Show one more neighbor joining Nia, then write a fourth sentence explaining how your paragraph moves the plot toward the resolution.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Number the paragraphs 1, 2, and 3. Underline one sentence in each paragraph that shows its job in the plot, setup, problem or turning point, or resolution. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does paragraph 1 set up both the setting and the main problem Nia faces?	It introduces the neglected apartment courtyard garden and explains that the owner may pave it for parking unless Nia can show that it is useful.
2	How does the sentence “She wanted to quit” fit into the structure of paragraph 2?	It marks the low point of the problem. It makes Mr. Alvarez’s help a turning point in the plot.
3	How does Mr. Alvarez’s action in paragraph 2 help develop a theme of the story?	His help shows that a difficult goal can become possible when people work together.
4	How does paragraph 3 resolve the conflict and strengthen the story’s central idea?	The neighbors agree to care for the garden, so Nia does not have to persuade the owner alone. The owner delays paving, showing that shared effort can protect something valuable.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Ms. Chen came downstairs carrying a roll of twine and a box of wooden stakes. She and Nia tied the leaning tomato plant to a stake before the wind could snap its stem. Nia began a list of jobs that neighbors could take during the week. This paragraph moves the plot toward the resolution by showing that Nia is gaining help and a workable plan.

Accept answers that identify the structural role of each paragraph and support the idea with passage details. For the open response, accept a plausible added event that increases community support and clearly explains how it leads toward the resolution.