

Storm Garden Choice

Notice how dialogue and sensory details build a character's experience.

6W3.b "Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue and description, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline all three sentences that contain dialogue. Circle these three sensory descriptions: "rain tapped," "yellow lamp," and "Mud squished," to see how dialogue and description develop Maya's experience.

The Last Garden Bed

- ① At dusk, Maya hurried toward the community garden carrying a paper bag of bean seeds. Cold rain tapped the hood of her jacket, and the path shone under a single yellow lamp. She had promised Mr. Ortiz that she would plant the last empty bed before the storm grew stronger. At the gate, she saw that a gust had knocked over the seed labels. "I cannot leave this mess for him," Maya said, gripping the wet bag.
- ② She crouched beside the bed and gathered labels from puddles. Mud squished around her boots as she pressed the first seed into the dark soil. Then her flashlight blinked off. Maya froze, listening to rain rattle the metal fence. "The storm is making this harder, but I can finish one row at a time," she whispered. A neighbor, Luis, opened the gate with an umbrella. "Use this light," he said, holding out a lantern toward her.
- ③ With Luis holding the lantern, Maya planted the final seeds and replaced each label. The lantern made a small gold circle on the ground, so she could read the names before pushing them into place. When the row was finished, Maya stood slowly and looked at the neat bed. The rain still fell, but her shoulders relaxed. She tucked the empty bag into her pocket and walked home, knowing Mr. Ortiz would find the garden ready in the morning.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What does Maya's first spoken sentence reveal about why she stays at the garden?

2 How does the description "Mud squished around her boots" develop the difficulty of Maya's task?

3 How does Maya's second spoken sentence show a change from simply noticing the problem to making a plan?

4 Which description near the end shows that Maya's feelings have changed? Explain what it shows.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a six-sentence scene about a character completing a difficult task. Include two sentences with dialogue, at least three sensory description details, and a final sentence that shows how the character feels after the task.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline all three sentences that contain dialogue. Circle these three sensory descriptions: “rain tapped,” “yellow lamp,” and “Mud squished,” to see how dialogue and description develop Maya's experience. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does Maya's first spoken sentence reveal about why she stays at the garden?	It reveals that Maya feels responsible for the garden and does not want to leave the mess for Mr. Ortiz.
2	How does the description “Mud squished around her boots” develop the difficulty of Maya's task?	It shows that the ground is wet and messy, making it harder and more uncomfortable for Maya to plant the seeds.
3	How does Maya's second spoken sentence show a change from simply noticing the problem to making a plan?	Maya says the storm is making the work harder, then decides she can finish by doing one row at a time. Her dialogue shows persistence and a plan.
4	Which description near the end shows that Maya's feelings have changed? Explain what it shows.	“Her shoulders relaxed” shows that Maya feels relieved and satisfied after finishing the garden bed.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Nora balanced the model bridge on the classroom table as the fan hummed above her. A loose string scratched her palm, and the glue smelled sharp. “The tower keeps leaning,” Nora said, watching the paper shake. She pressed the base flat and added a strip of tape. “Hold this end for me,” her partner said, as cool air blew through the open window. When the bridge stayed upright, Nora smiled and felt her tight shoulders loosen.

Accept answers that cite or accurately paraphrase relevant dialogue or description and explain how it develops Maya's actions, challenge, or feelings. For Your Turn, accept varied scenes that contain six sentences, two dialogue sentences, three sensory details, and a final feeling.