

Greenhouse Choice

Track how description and dialogue develop a character's decision.

7W3.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 two descriptive details that help you picture the setting or action, and circle each line of dialogue that reveals a character's feelings or choices.

The Open Door

- ① On Saturday morning, Lena pushed open the gate of the neighborhood garden, carrying a tray of tomato seedlings. Rain from the night clung to the bean leaves, and the air smelled like wet soil. She had promised Mr. Ortiz, the garden coordinator, that she would place the seedlings inside the greenhouse before the cold wind arrived. At the path's end, she stopped. The greenhouse door hung open, tapping its metal frame with each gust of wind.
- ② "Mr. Ortiz?" Lena called. No answer came from the tool shed. She set down the tray and stepped inside. A sharp, grassy scent mixed with the warm odor of damp pots. Near the back wall, a small gray cat crouched beneath a bench, its paw caught in a loop of twine. "Easy," Lena whispered, kneeling slowly beside it. The cat flattened its ears, but when Lena loosened the twine, it gave a rough purr and pressed against her muddy glove.
- ③ Mr. Ortiz hurried around the shed, holding a coil of rope. "I heard the door banging," he said, then noticed the cat. Lena pointed to the empty tray. "The seedlings can wait. She needs help first." Together, they wrapped the cat in a clean towel and carried it to the animal clinic nearby. As they left, the greenhouse door clicked shut behind them. Lena glanced at the dark clouds and smiled. The cold wind had not ruined her morning after all.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is one descriptive detail from the first paragraph that helps create the garden setting? Explain what you can picture because of it.

2 How do Lena's words, "Easy," and her actions show how she responds to the cat?

3 What change happens to the cat after Lena frees its paw? Which description shows this change?

4 What does Lena's statement, "The seedlings can wait. She needs help first," reveal about her character?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a six-sentence scene of 80 to 100 words about a character facing a small problem. Use at least two sensory details, two lines of dialogue, and a response that reveals something about the character.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two descriptive details that help you picture the setting or action, and circle each line of dialogue that reveals a character's feelings or choices. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is one descriptive detail from the first paragraph that helps create the garden setting? Explain what you can picture because of it.	Answers may name the rain clinging to bean leaves, the smell of wet soil, or the greenhouse door tapping in the wind, with an explanation of the damp, windy garden setting.
2	How do Lena's words, "Easy," and her actions show how she responds to the cat?	She speaks gently, kneels slowly, and loosens the twine, showing that she is careful and kind to the frightened cat.
3	What change happens to the cat after Lena frees its paw? Which description shows this change?	The cat becomes calmer and more trusting. It gives a rough purr and presses against Lena's muddy glove.
4	What does Lena's statement, "The seedlings can wait. She needs help first," reveal about her character?	It reveals that Lena is compassionate and puts helping the injured cat before finishing her garden task.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the edge of the crowded gym, Devon gripped the loose strap on his science-fair model. The smell of popcorn drifted from the concession stand, and rain rattled against the high windows. "Your bridge is leaning," his sister Nia said, pointing at the cardboard towers. Devon swallowed and steadied the base with both hands. "Then help me hold it while I fix the strap," he replied. When the judges entered, Nia smiled, and Devon carried the model forward without letting it shake.

Accept accurate references to the passage and explanations that connect dialogue or description to character, setting, or events. For the writing task, check for six sentences, 80 to 100 words, sensory description, two dialogue lines, and a character response to a problem.