

Garden Shift

Trace how a narrative ending reflects the events that came before it.

8W3.e "Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB In the final paragraph, underline two details that connect to earlier events, then circle the sentence that states the narrator's larger insight.

Hours in the Garden

- ① On Saturday morning, I arrived at the community garden with a bucket of tomato seedlings and a plan to finish my volunteer hours quickly. The raised beds looked defeated after a week of heat. Dry soil had cracked around the bean vines, and a hose lay twisted beside the shed. Ms. Alvarez handed me a trowel and asked me to loosen the soil near the roots. I wanted to check the clock, but I knelt beside the smallest bed and began.
- ② For the next hour, we watered slowly, pulled weeds, and pressed mulch around each plant. When I lifted a flat of seedlings, its cardboard bottom gave way. Two basil plants fell onto the path. My face burned as I gathered them, expecting Ms. Alvarez to be annoyed. Instead, she showed me how to hold the tray underneath. We replanted the basil, then labeled the rows with popsicle sticks. By noon, the leaves stood straighter, and the beds no longer seemed abandoned.
- ③ As we packed the tools, I noticed soil under my fingernails and a dark stain across my knee. I had not completed the work as fast as planned, and I had made a mistake with the basil. Still, the garden had changed because we stayed with it. On the walk home, I understood that helping is not always about doing a job perfectly or earning hours. It can mean paying attention, accepting guidance, and leaving a place stronger than you found it.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is the narrator's goal at the beginning, and how has the narrator's thinking changed by the conclusion?

2 Which earlier event does the line about making a mistake with the basil reflect?

3 How does the changed condition of the garden support the narrator's final insight?

4 What larger lesson does the narrator state in the final paragraph? Use your own words.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine you helped a new student use a school program during lunch, even though you were unsure how to explain it at first. Write a four-sentence concluding paragraph that reflects on the challenge, what changed, and what you learned. Do not introduce a new major event.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

In the final paragraph, underline two details that connect to earlier events, then circle the sentence that states the narrator's larger insight. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the narrator's goal at the beginning, and how has the narrator's thinking changed by the conclusion?	At first, the narrator wants to finish volunteer hours quickly. By the end, the narrator understands that helping means paying attention, accepting guidance, and improving a place, not just earning hours or being perfect.
2	Which earlier event does the line about making a mistake with the basil reflect?	It reflects the moment when the cardboard tray broke and two basil plants fell onto the path.
3	How does the changed condition of the garden support the narrator's final insight?	The beds and plants improve after the group works carefully and keeps going. This shows that steady effort can strengthen a place even when mistakes happen.
4	What larger lesson does the narrator state in the final paragraph? Use your own words.	Helping is about careful effort, learning from guidance, and making a positive difference, not simply finishing quickly or perfectly.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

After the last bell, I returned the library tablets to their cart and saw that Maya was smiling as she typed her first assignment. At the start of lunch, I had worried that I would not know how to explain the program. I learned that patience can matter more than having every answer ready. Walking back to class, I felt proud that I had helped someone feel less alone in a new place.

Accept answers that accurately connect the ending to specific earlier events and explain the narrator's changed understanding. For the open response, accept any four-sentence conclusion that reflects on the challenge and outcome without adding a major new event.