

# The Open Gate

Study how a narrative ending resolves events and reveals their meaning.

**9-10W3e** "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** Underline the sentences in the final paragraph that explain what the experience means, then number three earlier moments that led to that understanding.

### The Courtyard Key

- ① On Saturday morning, I unlocked the gate to our apartment courtyard with a borrowed key and a list of complaints. The tomato beds were dry, the bench had a loose board, and a faded sign warned people not to pick anything. Mr. Alvarez, who had planted the garden years earlier, was moving away that afternoon. He had asked me to water the beds once, but I had invited neighbors instead. By nine o'clock, only my little brother and I stood beside the hose. I wondered whether I had mistaken a favor for a project.
- ② Then Ms. Chen from the third floor arrived carrying two buckets. She said the sign made the garden seem private, so we turned it over and used its blank back to write, "Take what you can use." A father tightened the bench board while his daughter pulled weeds. Soon, people who had passed one another silently in the elevator were trading names and planting basil. When a sudden rain began, nobody ran inside. We kept working, laughing as muddy water streaked our shoes. The courtyard did not look perfect, but it no longer looked abandoned.
- ③ Before leaving, Mr. Alvarez returned for his last box. He paused at the gate and read the new sign, then handed me the key. I almost gave it back, because I still expected someone older to decide what happened next. Instead, I placed the key on a hook inside the laundry room, where every resident could reach it. As I walked upstairs, I understood that the garden had not been saved by one dramatic act. It changed because people noticed a shared problem and chose to stay long enough to solve part of it. The open gate would ask us to keep making that choice.

**2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE** \_\_\_\_\_ Use the passage

**1** What action in the final paragraph resolves the question of who can care for the courtyard garden?

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**2** Why does the narrator almost give the key back to Mr. Alvarez, and what does the narrator's final choice reveal?

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**3** Name two earlier events that support the narrator's conclusion that people chose to solve a shared problem.

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**4** How does the final sentence extend the resolution beyond the events of that Saturday?

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**3 YOUR TURN** \_\_\_\_\_ Your own words

Write a six-sentence narrative about a time you or an imagined character helped address a shared problem. In the final two sentences, provide a conclusion that resolves the action and reflects on what the character learned or now understands.

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**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline the sentences in the final paragraph that explain what the experience means, then number three earlier moments that led to that understanding. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                                         | ANSWER                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | What action in the final paragraph resolves the question of who can care for the courtyard garden?               | <b>The narrator puts the key on a hook in the laundry room where every resident can reach it.</b>                                                                                                           |
| 2 | Why does the narrator almost give the key back to Mr. Alvarez, and what does the narrator's final choice reveal? | <b>The narrator expects an older person to decide what happens next. Placing the key where all residents can use it shows that the narrator now accepts shared responsibility.</b>                          |
| 3 | Name two earlier events that support the narrator's conclusion that people chose to solve a shared problem.      | <b>Acceptable events include Ms. Chen bringing buckets, neighbors changing the sign, a father repairing the bench, people pulling weeds and planting basil, or everyone continuing to work in the rain.</b> |
| 4 | How does the final sentence extend the resolution beyond the events of that Saturday?                            | <b>It shows that keeping the garden open will require residents to continue choosing to notice problems and help solve them.</b>                                                                            |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

After rehearsal, Maya found the auditorium floor covered with abandoned programs. She wanted to leave because the bus would arrive soon, but the custodian was already stacking chairs alone. Maya asked two friends to collect paper while she gathered recycling bins. They finished just as the custodian locked the supply closet. On the bus, Maya realized that noticing a problem matters only when someone accepts responsibility for it. The clean floor was temporary, but her choice made the crowded room feel like a place they all owned.

Accept answers that identify the narrator's shift from expecting someone else to lead to understanding shared responsibility. For the narrative, the ending should resolve the immediate event and reflect meaningfully on the experience.