Marks That Matter

Read a model text and examine how sentences end.

10.5.W.5 "Students will write using correct end mark mechanics."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the direct question, circle the end mark on the sentence about what the volunteers wondered, and box the end marks on the instruction to bring an envelope and the excited observation about the trays.

The Seed Drawer

1 At the back of the public library, a wooden drawer holds packets of bean, basil, and sunflower seeds. Neighbors leave extra seeds and take varieties they want to grow. Could one small drawer change what a neighborhood grows? Last spring, Maya borrowed six bean seeds for the sunny patch beside her apartment building. She tucked them into a paper envelope so they would not spill on the bus. A week later, pale stems pushed through the soil. Her neighbor saw the sprouts and offered a spare watering can. Soon three households were checking the patch each morning.

2 The library's seed exchange also makes room for uncertainty. The volunteers wondered whether the oldest seeds would still sprout. Rather than promise results, they wrote planting dates on each packet and asked gardeners to share what happened. One visitor tried marigolds in a window box, while another planted lettuce in a cooler corner of the yard. At a May workshop, visitors filled trays with soil and seeds. By June, green shoots had filled every tray! Nobody claimed that every seed had grown, but the crowded windowsill gave the volunteers a reason to celebrate.

3 Now the library is planning another exchange, and Maya wants to include seeds from her own bean plants. Bring a labeled envelope to the next exchange. A label can name the plant and say when the seeds were collected. If you are unsure what a seed is, ask a volunteer before you plant it. Sharing seeds will not guarantee a harvest, but it can start a conversation across a fence or down a hallway. Maya still visits the patch with her neighbor, who insists the borrowed watering can has become community property.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why does “Could one small drawer change what a neighborhood grows?” end with a question mark?

2. Why does “The volunteers wondered whether the oldest seeds would still sprout.” end with a period, even though it mentions something they wondered?

3. What end mark does the instruction “Bring a labeled envelope to the next exchange.” use, and why does it fit?

4. What does the exclamation point add to “By June, green shoots had filled every tray!”?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly four sentences about a shared project you invent: a direct question, a sentence that reports a question, a polite instruction, and an excited observation, in that order. Choose an end mark that fits each sentence.

Marks That Matter

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the direct question, circle the end mark on the sentence about what the volunteers wondered, and box the end marks on the instruction to bring an envelope and the excited observation about the trays. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why does "Could one small drawer change what a neighborhood grows?" end with a question mark?	**It asks a direct question.**
2	Why does "The volunteers wondered whether the oldest seeds would still sprout." end with a period, even though it mentions something they wondered?	**It reports what the volunteers wondered rather than asking the reader a direct question.**
3	What end mark does the instruction "Bring a labeled envelope to the next exchange." use, and why does it fit?	**A period fits because the sentence gives an instruction without expressing strong emotion.**
4	What does the exclamation point add to "By June, green shoots had filled every tray!"?	**It conveys excitement about the sprouts filling the trays.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Could our apartment building host a weekend bike repair table? The neighbors wondered whether anyone had a spare tire pump. Bring tools you can safely share. By noon, six bicycles were ready to ride!

For Part 1, look for the direct question underlined, the period after "sprout" circled, and the period after "exchange" and exclamation point after "tray" boxed. For Part 3, accept any invented shared project with four sentences in the requested order and appropriate end marks.