The Missing Seeds

Find the setting, characters, and events in a garden story.

3.3.R.3 "Students will find examples of literary elements: • setting • plot • characters • characterization"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words that tell when and where the story happens, and circle the characters' names. Number the problem, the setback, and the solution 1, 2, and 3 to track the plot.

The Last Packet

1. On a breezy Friday afternoon, Tessa and Malik worked in the school garden. Their class would plant bean seeds before the final bell. Tessa lined up the seed packets by color. Malik held a tray of small pots beside her. Then a strong gust sent one packet skidding under the wooden shed. "That was the last packet of purple beans," Tessa said.

2. Malik knelt and reached under the shed, but his fingers could not touch the packet. Tessa grabbed a stick and poked at it. The packet slid farther back. Tessa frowned. "I made it worse," she said. Malik looked at the narrow gap for a moment. "Let's try something flat," he said. He found a piece of cardboard near the watering cans.

3. Malik pushed the cardboard under the shed until its edge rested behind the packet. Tessa watched the gap while Malik slowly pulled the cardboard back. The packet came out, dusty but closed. Tessa brushed it off and grinned at Malik. "You thought before you moved," she said. Together they planted the purple beans just as the final bell rang across the garden.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. When and where does the story happen?

2. What does Malik's choice to look for something flat show about him? Use one detail from the story.

3. What problem starts the story, and what action makes it worse?

4. How do Tessa and Malik solve the problem?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write four sentences about a new character in a different place who faces a problem. Show what the character is like through an action, and tell how the problem is solved.

ANSWER KEY

The Missing Seeds

GRADE 3 · 3.3.R.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words that tell when and where the story happens, and circle the characters' names. Number the problem, the setback, and the solution 1, 2, and 3 to track the plot. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	When and where does the story happen?	**On a breezy Friday afternoon in the school garden.**
2	What does Malik's choice to look for something flat show about him? Use one detail from the story.	**Malik thinks carefully about problems. After the stick pushes the packet farther back, he looks at the gap and finds a flat piece of cardboard.**
3	What problem starts the story, and what action makes it worse?	**The wind blows the last packet of purple bean seeds under the shed. Tessa pokes it with a stick, pushing it farther back.**
4	How do Tessa and Malik solve the problem?	**Malik uses cardboard to pull the packet out from under the shed, and they plant the seeds.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On a snowy morning, Ada found a little bird trapped inside her family's porch. The bird fluttered against the window and could not find the open door. Ada stayed calm and gently moved the chairs away from its path. The bird flew out the door and landed safely in a tree.

Accept traits for Malik such as thoughtful or resourceful when supported by his actions. In Part 3, look for a new setting, a problem and solution, and an action that shows the character's personality.