Words After Rain

Use clues and familiar ideas to learn new words.

3.4.R.5 "Students will acquire new grade-level vocabulary, relate new words to prior knowledge, and apply vocabulary in various contexts."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the four bold words in the passage. Underline a clue near each one that helps you understand its meaning.

Maya's Rain Garden

1. After a hard rain, Maya watched water race over the school sidewalk. This moving water is called **runoff**. It carried bits of dirt toward a drain. The class wanted to slow the water before it reached the street, so they planted a rain garden in a low spot beside the sidewalk. A rain garden is a shallow bed of plants and soil that catches rainwater.

2. At the next storm, water flowed off the sidewalk and into the garden. The loose soil began to **absorb** it, much like a sponge takes in a spill. Instead of sitting on the hard pavement, some of the water soaked into the ground. The garden did not stop every drop of runoff, but it gave the rain a place to sink in.

3. As water moved through the soil, the soil helped **filter** it by trapping some of the dirt. Maya thought of a strainer that catches bits of food while water passes through. The garden plants could **thrive** there, growing well when they had enough water and sunlight. Maya checked the leaves each week and noticed new ones growing after the rainy days.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does **runoff** mean in the passage? Which detail helps you know?

2. How does a sponge help you understand what it means for soil to **absorb** water?

3. Maya compares soil to a strainer. What does **filter** mean here, and what does the soil trap?

4. What signs in the passage show that plants can **thrive** in the garden?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a place outside the rain garden, such as a playground or a kitchen. Write two sentences about what happens there, using two different bold words from the passage. Make each sentence show what its word means.

ANSWER KEY

Words After Rain

GRADE 3 · 3.4.R.5

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the four bold words in the passage. Underline a clue near each one that helps you understand its meaning. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does **runoff** mean in the passage? Which detail helps you know?	**Runoff is water moving over the ground. The passage says water raced over the sidewalk and carried dirt.**
2	How does a sponge help you understand what it means for soil to **absorb** water?	**A sponge takes in a spill, and the soil takes in rainwater.**
3	Maya compares soil to a strainer. What does **filter** mean here, and what does the soil trap?	**To filter means to let water pass through while catching some things in it. The soil traps some dirt.**
4	What signs in the passage show that plants can **thrive** in the garden?	**The plants can grow well with enough water and sunlight, and Maya notices new leaves after rainy days.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

After the sprinkler ran, runoff flowed across the playground path toward a dirt patch. The dry dirt could absorb some of that water before it reached the grass.

Accept answers that explain each word using accurate clues from the passage. For Your Turn, accept any new setting with two different bold words used correctly in two sentences.