The Garden Bell

Find clues that reveal who tells a story.

4.3.R.2 "Students will determine whether a grade-level literary text is narrated in first- or third-person point of view."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two words in each paragraph that show how the narrator talks about the characters. Circle the word *I* in Ben's speech, then use your marks to decide whether the story is told in first or third person.

A Friend for the Garden

1. Mara found a tiny brass bell under the school garden bench. It had a blue ribbon tied to its handle, and its clapper made a soft, clear ring. She turned it over in her palm. A bit of paper was tucked inside the ribbon. On it, someone had written, "Ring me when the garden needs a friend." Mara looked at the wilted tomato plants and frowned.

2. Mara rang the bell once. Ben poked his head around the corner of the shed, holding a watering can. "I heard that bell," he said. "Are you calling for help?" Mara nodded and pointed to the dry soil. Ben filled the can at the tap while Mara pulled weeds from around the stems. Soon, two other students came over to see what was happening.

3. By the time the bell rang for class, the tomato leaves looked less droopy. Mara set the little brass bell beside the garden path, where anyone could reach it. Ben tied the blue ribbon to a stake so it would not blow away. Mara wondered who had left the note. She decided it did not matter. Now the whole class knew how to ask for a garden friend.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Is the first paragraph told in first or third person? Give one word the narrator uses as evidence.

2. Who says "I heard that bell"? Does that *I* change the story's point of view? Explain.

3. Who tells us that Ben filled the watering can, Ben or a narrator outside the story? What words help you tell?

4. In the last paragraph, who does "She" mean in "She decided it did not matter"? What point of view does that word support?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences about an animal finding an object outdoors. Tell the scene in third person without using *I* or *we*, and underline two words in your narration that show third-person point of view.

ANSWER KEY

The Garden Bell

GRADE 4 · 4.3.R.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two words in each paragraph that show how the narrator talks about the characters. Circle the word *I* in Ben's speech, then use your marks to decide whether the story is told in first or third person. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Is the first paragraph told in first or third person? Give one word the narrator uses as evidence.	**Third person. The narrator uses "Mara" or "She" to talk about Mara.**
2	Who says "I heard that bell"? Does that *I* change the story's point of view? Explain.	**Ben says it. No. The word is in Ben's speech, not the narrator's words.**
3	Who tells us that Ben filled the watering can, Ben or a narrator outside the story? What words help you tell?	**A narrator outside the story tells us. The narrator says "Ben filled the can," rather than "I filled the can."**
4	In the last paragraph, who does "She" mean in "She decided it did not matter"? What point of view does that word support?	**"She" means Mara. It supports third-person point of view.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A rabbit found a red mitten beside the garden gate. She sniffed it, then nudged it with her nose. The rabbit hopped away when the mitten wiggled in the wind.

Accept character names and third-person pronouns as evidence when students identify the narrator's words. For Your Turn, check for exactly three sentences, third-person narration, and two underlined clues.