The Flying Tarp

Find story details that support ideas about characters, setting, and plot.

4.3.R.3 "Students will find textual evidence of literary elements: • setting • plot • characters (i.e., protagonist, antagonist) • characterization • conflict"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that show when or where the story takes place, circle one action that shows what a character is like, and number three events that move the problem toward its ending.

The Garden Fair

1. On Friday morning, wind swept across the school courtyard as Nia set a tray of sunflower seedlings beside the garden table. At noon, families would visit the school fair, and Nia wanted them to take home the little plants. Dark clouds gathered over the brick wall. Nia checked the loose tarp above her table and tied one corner to a chair.

2. Across the courtyard, Theo pulled at the tarp. "I need this for my painted signs," he said. "The rain will ruin them." Nia held the rope tight. "The seedlings could wash out of their small pots," she said. Theo frowned and dragged his signs under the narrow roof by the gym. Then a sharp gust tore the tarp free of the chair.

3. Nia chased the flapping tarp, but Theo reached it first. He paused, then helped her spread it over the seedlings. "My signs fit under the gym roof," he said. Nia held down one edge with a heavy watering can while Theo tied the other edge to the table leg. When the rain began, the seedlings stayed dry, and Theo's signs stayed bright.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which details show when and where the story begins? Give two details from the text.

2. What does Nia want at the fair? Give a detail from the text that shows her goal.

3. Who stands in Nia's way at first? Give a detail that shows how.

4. What action shows Theo changes his mind, and how does it help solve the problem?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write 3 or 4 sentences explaining what Nia's actions show about her character. Use two different actions from the story as evidence, and explain what each shows.

ANSWER KEY

The Flying Tarp

GRADE 4 · 4.3.R.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details that show when or where the story takes place, circle one action that shows what a character is like, and number three events that move the problem toward its ending. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which details show when and where the story begins? Give two details from the text.	**The story begins on Friday morning in the school courtyard.**
2	What does Nia want at the fair? Give a detail from the text that shows her goal.	**She wants families to take home the sunflower seedlings.**
3	Who stands in Nia's way at first? Give a detail that shows how.	**Theo pulls at the tarp because he wants it to protect his painted signs.**
4	What action shows Theo changes his mind, and how does it help solve the problem?	**Theo helps spread the tarp over the seedlings, keeping them dry while his signs stay under the gym roof.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Nia is careful and determined. She ties the tarp to a chair when she sees dark clouds, showing that she plans ahead. When the wind tears it loose, she chases it instead of giving up. Her chase shows she will work hard to protect the seedlings.

Accept other accurate setting details and character traits when students support them with specific actions from the passage. For the marking task, event numbers should follow the story's order.