Garden Word Clues

Use nearby details to figure out word meanings.

5.4.R.2 "Students will use context clues to clarify the meaning of words."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline parched, makeshift, meticulous, and reluctant in the passage. Circle the nearby words that help you figure out what each one means.

A Saturday in the Garden

1. On Saturday, Maya visited the school garden after a week without rain. The soil was parched. It crumbled like dry toast when she pressed it, and the lettuce leaves drooped. The hose was missing, so Maya made a makeshift watering can from a clean milk jug. She poked small holes in its cap and filled it at the sink.

2. Maya's friend Leo arrived with a notebook. He was meticulous about keeping garden records. He measured each plant twice, wrote down every number, and checked his notes for mistakes. Maya wanted to water quickly, but Leo noticed that one bed was still damp beneath the surface. They left that bed alone and carried the jug to the thirsty plants instead.

3. Near the fence, they found a tiny pumpkin vine hidden under tall grass. Leo was reluctant to pull away the grass. He held back because he worried he might tug the vine by accident. Maya gently parted the grass with her fingers while Leo watched. Together they cleared a path for sunlight, then marked the spot so no one would step on the vine.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does parched mean here? Which details helped you decide?

2. What does makeshift mean here? How did Maya's actions help you figure it out?

3. What does meticulous mean here? Name two actions that give you clues.

4. What does reluctant mean here? Which detail shows how Leo felt about pulling the grass?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences about a different place or activity. Use one challenging word, underline it, and give clues that help a reader figure out its meaning without stating a definition.

ANSWER KEY

Garden Word Clues

GRADE 5 · 5.4.R.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline parched, makeshift, meticulous, and reluctant in the passage. Circle the nearby words that help you figure out what each one means. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does parched mean here? Which details helped you decide?	**Parched means very dry. It had not rained for a week, and the soil crumbled like dry toast.**
2	What does makeshift mean here? How did Maya's actions help you figure it out?	**Makeshift means made as a substitute from what is available. Maya used a milk jug as a watering can because the hose was missing.**
3	What does meticulous mean here? Name two actions that give you clues.	**Meticulous means very careful and exact. Leo measured each plant twice and checked his notes for mistakes.**
4	What does reluctant mean here? Which detail shows how Leo felt about pulling the grass?	**Reluctant means hesitant or unwilling. Leo held back because he worried he might tug the vine.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the bus stop, the air felt <u>frigid</u>. I pulled my scarf over my nose and blew warm air into my gloves. Even the puddles had a thin layer of ice.

Accept accurate synonyms supported by specific passage details. For Your Turn, look for three sentences, an underlined word, and clues that suggest its meaning without directly defining it.