Seeds and Sentences

Read a seed-swap story for voice and modifier clues.

8.5.R.1 "Students will recognize active and passive voice and misplaced and dangling modifiers in sentences."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB READ AND MARK: Underline one active-voice sentence and circle one passive-voice sentence. In paragraph 2, put brackets around two phrases that seem to describe the wrong thing.

The Neighborhood Seed Swap

1. At the end of summer, a neighborhood garden had more bean seeds than it needed. The garden club collected dry pods from several healthy plants and opened them over a tray. The seeds were spread on a screen by the club to let air move around them. Saving seeds can help gardeners grow the same kind of bean the next year, though a good harvest is never guaranteed. Each seed had to be fully dry before storage because moisture can lead to mold.

2. On Saturday, Maya helped prepare the seeds for a free neighborhood swap. She placed paper envelopes on a table and wrote the bean variety on each one. After drying overnight, Maya packed the seeds into envelopes. She checked the screen, where the seeds had sat since Friday afternoon, before sealing each packet. Next, Maya handed seeds to visitors in paper envelopes. A few visitors asked what the packets contained, so she showed them a drawing of the plant. By noon, every packet had found a new home.

3. Before anyone took a packet, Maya asked where the beans would be planted. The visitors described pots on balconies, small plots behind apartments, and raised beds near a school. She explained that a labeled packet could keep one variety from being mixed with another. Instructions for storing the remaining packets were written on a sign beside the table. The club planned to keep those packets in a cool, dry place until spring. At the next swap, Maya hoped to hear how the new plants had grown.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In paragraph 1, is "The garden club collected dry pods from several healthy plants" active or passive? Who performs the action?

2. In paragraph 1, is "The seeds were spread on a screen by the club" active or passive? Who receives the action?

3. In paragraph 2, what does "After drying overnight" seem to describe? Rewrite the sentence so it clearly describes what dried.

4. In paragraph 2, what does "in paper envelopes" seem to describe in the sentence about visitors? Rewrite the sentence to make its meaning clear.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

YOUR TURN: Write four sentences about making a class display, in this order: an active sentence, a passive sentence, a sentence with a dangling modifier, and a sentence with a misplaced modifier. Then rewrite the last two sentences to make their meanings clear.

ANSWER KEY

Seeds and Sentences

GRADE 8 · 8.5.R.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

READ AND MARK: Underline one active-voice sentence and circle one passive-voice sentence. In paragraph 2, put brackets around two phrases that seem to describe the wrong thing. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, is "The garden club collected dry pods from several healthy plants" active or passive? Who performs the action?	**Active. The garden club performs the action.**
2	In paragraph 1, is "The seeds were spread on a screen by the club" active or passive? Who receives the action?	**Passive. The seeds receive the action.**
3	In paragraph 2, what does "After drying overnight" seem to describe? Rewrite the sentence so it clearly describes what dried.	**It seems to describe Maya. After the seeds dried overnight, Maya packed them into envelopes.**
4	In paragraph 2, what does "in paper envelopes" seem to describe in the sentence about visitors? Rewrite the sentence to make its meaning clear.	**It seems to describe the visitors. Next, Maya handed seeds in paper envelopes to visitors.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our class arranged photos on a display board. The labels were written by Jalen. Holding a blue marker, the poster got neat labels. I placed the drawings on the table with a ruler. Holding a blue marker, Jalen wrote neat labels on the poster. Using a ruler, I placed the drawings on the table.

Accept any correctly identified active and passive sentences for the marking job. Modifier revisions should make clear that the seeds dried overnight and the seeds, not the visitors, were in envelopes.