

Garden Path Problem

Track plot events and identify a story's theme.

ELA.3.R.3.2 "Summarize a text to enhance comprehension. Include plot and theme for a literary text. Use the central idea and relevant details for an informational text."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one important event in each paragraph. Circle the final sentence, which states the lesson Maya learns.

Garden Signs

- ① On Saturday, Maya carried a box of tomato plants to the community garden. She had promised to help her neighbor, Mr. Lee, plant them before noon. At the gate, Maya saw that a storm had knocked over several wooden signs. The garden paths were hard to follow. Families were arriving soon for a planting day.
- ② Maya wanted to begin planting right away, but Mr. Lee stopped at a fallen sign. He said people might step on new sprouts if they could not find the paths. Maya looked at the dark clouds and worried they would not finish. Then she picked up a hammer and helped Mr. Lee set the signs upright.
- ③ With the paths marked, visitors found their garden beds easily. Maya and Mr. Lee planted the tomatoes just as the first raindrops fell. Later, Maya noticed a small child reading one of the repaired signs. She smiled because the garden was safer for everyone. Maya learned that solving a problem first can help many people.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- 1 What beginning problem should a summary include?

2 What two actions in the middle show how Maya and Mr. Lee solve the problem?

3 What happens after the signs are repaired? Tell about the visitors and the tomatoes.

4 What theme does Maya learn?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three- or four-sentence summary of Garden Signs. Include the beginning problem, the main action, the ending, and the theme. Use your own words and leave out small details.

Summarize and check

Keep the important events in order. Include what Maya learns. Reread the story to check that your summary adds no new event or changed timing.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one important event in each paragraph. Circle the final sentence, which states the lesson Maya learns. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What beginning problem should a summary include?	A storm knocked over the garden signs, so the paths were hard to follow.
2	What two actions in the middle show how Maya and Mr. Lee solve the problem?	Maya picks up a hammer, and she helps Mr. Lee set the fallen signs upright.
3	What happens after the signs are repaired? Tell about the visitors and the tomatoes.	Visitors find their garden beds, and Maya and Mr. Lee plant the tomatoes just as the first raindrops fall.
4	What theme does Maya learn?	Solving a problem first can help many people.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A storm knocked down the garden signs, making the paths hard to follow. Maya and Mr. Lee repaired the signs before planting. Visitors found their beds, and the tomatoes were planted as the rain began. Maya learned that solving a problem can help many people.

Accept accurate summaries in three or four sentences that include plot and theme. The tomatoes are planted as the first raindrops fall, not before the rain. Students may omit the rain as a small detail, but should not change its timing if they include it. Accept equivalent themes about addressing a shared problem to help others. Do not require every minor action.