Growing Green Ideas

Compare how a realistic story and a poem develop a related theme.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.9 "Compare and contrast texts in different forms or genres (e.g., stories and poems; historical novels and fantasy stories) in terms of their approaches to similar themes and topics."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB In each text, underline two details that show what a character does for plants, and circle one phrase that shows an effect. Write A or B beside your marks so you can compare the texts.

Two Ways to Grow

1 Text A, "The Last Seedling," is a realistic story. Maya carried an oak seedling to the dusty community garden beside her apartment. Mr. Chen said one tree would not shade the block. Maya watched children leave the hot sidewalk for home. She planted the tree near a rain gutter and watered it each afternoon.

2 By Saturday, Maya invited friends to help. They spread fallen leaves around the tree to hold soil moisture. Mr. Chen brought a bucket and wildflower seeds. Neighbors added a bench and a sign protecting the roots. Months later, the small oak made a patch of shade. Mr. Chen planned a second tree.

3 Text B, "One Window Garden," is a poem.

On the third floor, Lena sets three cups with holes on a sill.
In each cup, a bean waits under dark, damp soil.
She checks them before breakfast.
A green hook lifts toward the glass.
Soon, a neighbor downstairs waves at tiny leaves from the bus stop.
Lena cannot cool the whole street,
but she can tend this bright corner.
When she shares one sprout with her brother, two windows hold green.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What theme is developed in both Text A and Text B? Support your answer with one detail from each text.

2. How are Maya's actions different from Lena's actions? Explain how each character cares for plants.

3. How does the realistic-story form in Text A develop the idea differently from the poem form in Text B?

4. How does each text show an effect beyond the main character? Give one detail from each text.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a different theme about caring for a shared place. Write two sentences from a realistic story and two lines from a poem that show the theme in different ways, then write one sentence that names the theme and explains one difference in the approaches.

ANSWER KEY

Growing Green Ideas

GRADE 6 · RL.6.9

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In each text, underline two details that show what a character does for plants, and circle one phrase that shows an effect. Write A or B beside your marks so you can compare the texts. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What theme is developed in both Text A and Text B? Support your answer with one detail from each text.	**Both texts show that caring for growing plants can improve a shared place. Maya and her neighbors grow a tree that makes shade, while Lena tends beans that bring green to two windows.**
2	How are Maya's actions different from Lena's actions? Explain how each character cares for plants.	**Maya invites friends and neighbors to help care for a community tree. Lena cares for bean plants herself and shares a sprout with her brother.**
3	How does the realistic-story form in Text A develop the idea differently from the poem form in Text B?	**Text A uses events over time and several characters to show a community effort. Text B uses short lines and images, such as the green hook and bright corner, to focus on Lena's small act of care.**
4	How does each text show an effect beyond the main character? Give one detail from each text.	**In Text A, neighbors join the work and Mr. Chen plans another tree. In Text B, a neighbor notices the leaves and Lena's brother receives a sprout.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Story: After the storm, Inez and her uncle collected plastic bottles from the creek behind the library. They asked shoppers to use the new recycling bin.
Poem:
Rain taps the clean stones.
A heron returns to the creek.
Comparison: Both texts show that protecting a shared place takes action, but the story shows people working while the poem uses a nature image to show the result.

Accept any reasonable shared theme that is supported by details from both texts. For comparison responses, require a detail from each form and a clear explanation of how the story and poem use different approaches.