Poems That Answer

Use images and experiences to respond to a story.

4W4 "Create a poem, story, play, art work, or other response to a text, author, theme, or personal experience."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three words or phrases in the poem that show hope after difficulty, and circle two details that connect the poem to the writer's own life. These marks show how a poem can respond to both a story and a personal experience.

The Seed I Saved

1. After I read *Mara's Garden*, I wrote this poem. In the story, Mara's seedlings washed away in a hard rain. She planted again with help from her neighbors. Her choice made me think about my own bean plant, which bent during a windy week but grew straight after I tied it to a stick in the soil.

2. **Poem**

   Rain tapped the leaves like tiny drums,
   and my green stem leaned low.
   I remembered Mara lifting mud from roots
   with careful hands, slow, slow.
   I found a stick beside the fence,
   then tied my plant with string.
   By morning, its bright leaves faced the sun,
   as if they planned to sing again with hope.

3. My poem does not retell every part of Mara's story. Instead, I used rain, a bent stem, and the rising sun to show a shared idea: keep working after a problem. The plant is also a symbol of my own effort. I chose gentle, hopeful words because Mara's neighbors and my family both helped someone grow stronger.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What story did the writer respond to, and what problem did Mara face in that story?

2. What two details from the writer's own life connect to Mara's experience?

3. How does the image of bright leaves facing the sun show the poem's shared idea?

4. Why did the writer choose gentle, hopeful words for the poem?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a six-line poem responding to a story you have read. Include one detail from the story, one detail from your life, and an image that shows a shared idea.

ANSWER KEY

Poems That Answer

GRADE 4 · 4W4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three words or phrases in the poem that show hope after difficulty, and circle two details that connect the poem to the writer's own life. These marks show how a poem can respond to both a story and a personal experience. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What story did the writer respond to, and what problem did Mara face in that story?	**The writer responded to *Mara's Garden*. Mara's seedlings washed away in a hard rain.**
2	What two details from the writer's own life connect to Mara's experience?	**The writer's bean plant bent during a windy week, and the writer tied it to a stick in the soil.**
3	How does the image of bright leaves facing the sun show the poem's shared idea?	**It shows the plant recovering and growing after trouble, which supports the idea of continuing to work after a problem.**
4	Why did the writer choose gentle, hopeful words for the poem?	**The writer chose them because Mara's neighbors and the writer's family helped someone grow stronger.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Slow feet crossed the dusty road.
The tortoise kept moving while the hare slept.
At soccer practice, I missed my first kick.
I tried again under the bright goal light.
Step by step, my feet grew sure.
Small tries can carry me forward.

Accept answers that correctly use passage details and explain how the poem responds to Mara's story and the writer's experience. For the poem, accept any six-line response that includes a story detail, a personal detail, and an image connected to a shared idea.