A Seed of Hope

Read a story that moves between the present and a memory.

4.RL.10 "By the end of the year, read and comprehend a variety of literary texts. Read and comprehend grade-appropriate texts with increasing challenge in text difficulty and complexity (e.g., layout, text structure, language/literary features..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number the paragraphs in the order their events happen, not the order you read them. Underline the words that help you place the memory in time.

The One Seed

1. This morning, Mara stood at the edge of the school garden with a packet of sunflower seeds in her palm. The soil looked hard and gray after a week without rain. "Maybe we should wait," she told her brother Eli. He held up a dented watering can. "Remember what Grandma says?" Mara did, but the words felt too small for the empty garden.

2. Last spring, Grandma had helped them plant beans in a cracked flowerpot. Mara had worried that nothing could grow there. Grandma pressed one seed into the soil and said, "Small things can surprise you." Weeks later, a green shoot had pushed through. Mara had carried the pot to the window each morning, turning it so the leaves could find the light.

3. Now, in the garden, Mara opened the seed packet. She scraped a shallow hole with her finger while Eli poured a little water onto the dry ground. One seed looked lost in the wide patch of soil. Mara covered it anyway. "Small things can surprise you," she said. As they walked back to class, she looked over her shoulder, already picturing a tall yellow flower.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why does the story show Mara hesitating in the garden before telling about last spring?

2. How does the bean plant in Mara's memory help her make a choice in the garden?

3. What does "Small things can surprise you" mean to Mara when she says it near the end?

4. What does Mara picture as she walks away? What does that show about how she feels now?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a story you would like to read next, either a book you know about or a kind of story you want to find. In three sentences, describe your choice, explain why it interests you, and tell how you would handle one part that might be hard to read.

A Seed of Hope

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Number the paragraphs in the order their events happen, not the order you read them. Underline the words that help you place the memory in time. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why does the story show Mara hesitating in the garden before telling about last spring?	**The memory explains why Mara decides to plant a seed even though she doubts it will grow.**
2	How does the bean plant in Mara's memory help her make a choice in the garden?	**The bean grew in a cracked pot when Mara thought it could not. Remembering that gives her reason to plant the sunflower seed.**
3	What does "Small things can surprise you" mean to Mara when she says it near the end?	**A tiny seed might grow into something much bigger than she expects.**
4	What does Mara picture as she walks away? What does that show about how she feels now?	**She pictures a tall yellow flower. She now feels hopeful that the seed will grow.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would choose a mystery about a missing library book because I like following clues. If the story jumps back in time, I will look for words that show when each scene happens. I will jot a note beside each scene to keep the events in order.

For the marking job, accept paragraphs numbered 2, 1, 3, with "Last spring" underlined. For Your Turn, accept any literary story choice with a personal reason and a useful plan for handling a reading challenge.