The Missing Seeds

Three stories, three views of one garden mystery

4.RL.6 "Compare and contrast the point of view from which different stories are narrated and explain the author's purpose using evidence from the text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words that show who tells each story, and circle one detail in each story that shows what its narrator knows or feels.

The Sunflower Packet

1. **The Empty Patch.** I pushed aside the leaves by our class garden bed. Yesterday I had set a packet of sunflower seeds on the bench. Now the bench was bare. "Someone took them," I told Eli. I searched beneath the bench and found only a yellow corner of paper caught on a nail. My stomach tightened. I wanted to plant before the rain came.

2. **The Yellow Corner.** Eli noticed Maya tugging at a scrap on the bench. He walked toward the gate, where a sunflower seed packet lay beside a puddle. Its top corner was torn. Ana stood nearby, staring at her muddy shoes. Eli picked up the packet and held it out to Maya. He wondered why Ana looked so worried, but he did not ask her.

3. **The Spill.** I had carried the packet to the gate so I could show my brother the picture of the tall flower. A gust pulled it from my hand. I ran after it, but the corner snagged on the bench first. When Eli found the packet, I wanted to hide. Instead, I told Maya what happened and offered to help plant the seeds before it rained.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the narration in *The Empty Patch* differ from the narration in *The Yellow Corner*? Give a clue from each story.

2. How do *The Yellow Corner* and *The Spill* reveal different thoughts about the missing packet? Use a detail from each story.

3. Both *The Empty Patch* and *The Spill* use "I." How do the two narrators understand the missing packet differently? Use evidence from both stories.

4. Why might the author tell *The Spill* in Ana's voice instead of using the outside narrator from *The Yellow Corner*? Use a detail from each story.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence story about the missing packet from Ana's brother's point of view, using "he" or "his" and at least one detail from the passage. Then write one sentence explaining how this point of view changes what readers know compared with Maya's story.

ANSWER KEY

The Missing Seeds

GRADE 4 · 4.RL.6

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words that show who tells each story, and circle one detail in each story that shows what its narrator knows or feels. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the narration in *The Empty Patch* differ from the narration in *The Yellow Corner*? Give a clue from each story.	**Maya tells the first story using "I." An outside narrator tells the second story using "Eli" and "he."**
2	How do *The Yellow Corner* and *The Spill* reveal different thoughts about the missing packet? Use a detail from each story.	**The outside narrator tells us Eli wonders why Ana looks worried. Ana's "I" narration reveals that she wants to hide.**
3	Both *The Empty Patch* and *The Spill* use "I." How do the two narrators understand the missing packet differently? Use evidence from both stories.	**Maya thinks someone took the packet because it is gone from the bench. Ana knows a gust pulled it from her hand after she carried it to the gate.**
4	Why might the author tell *The Spill* in Ana's voice instead of using the outside narrator from *The Yellow Corner*? Use a detail from each story.	**Ana's voice lets readers understand why she seems worried: she wants to hide. In Eli's story, he notices her worry but does not know its cause.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Ana's brother waited by the gate as she held up the sunflower packet. He saw a gust pull it from her hand. He hoped she would tell Maya what had happened. His point of view lets readers see that someone witnessed the accident, while Maya only found the torn corner.

Accept evidence-based explanations that distinguish a character telling a story with "I" from an outside narrator using names and "he." For the open task, accept a reasonable thought for Ana's brother if the story keeps the passage's events consistent.