The Fallen Plant

Notice how words and details reveal a character's response.

4.W.3.b "Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue and description, to develop experiences and events or show the responses of characters to situations."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two lines of dialogue that show how a character responds to the fallen plant. Circle two descriptive details that help you understand a character's feelings.

A Gust in the Garden

1 At the school garden, Mina carried a tray of tiny tomato plants toward the raised beds. A gust slammed the gate, and the tray tipped against her hip. One plant slid into the dirt. Mina froze, staring at its bent stem. "Oh no. I promised Ms. Lee I would keep them safe," she whispered. Her friend Theo set down his watering can and hurried over.

2 "The stem looks bent, but the roots are still in the soil," Theo said. He knelt beside the plant and brushed loose dirt from its leaves. Mina's cheeks felt hot. "Do you think it can grow?" she asked. Theo looked at the empty spot in the tray. "Let's ask Ms. Lee before we decide," he said. Mina took a slow breath and lifted the plant gently.

3 Ms. Lee examined the stem. "It might recover if we support it," she said. Theo found a short stick, and Mina held the plant steady while Ms. Lee tied it loosely with soft string. The leaves still drooped, but Mina's shoulders relaxed. "I thought I had ruined it," she told Theo. He smiled. "You asked for help instead." Together, they carried the tray out of the wind.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does Mina say that shows she feels responsible when the plant falls?

2. What detail about Mina shows how she feels before asking if the plant can grow? What feeling does it suggest?

3. How do Theo's words and actions show his response to the fallen plant? Give one example of each.

4. Near the end, what description shows Mina's feelings have changed? What does it suggest?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a new scene about a character who spills paint while making a class poster. In 4 to 5 sentences, include something the character says and at least two descriptive details that show how the character responds and what happens next.

ANSWER KEY

The Fallen Plant

GRADE 4 · 4.W.3.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two lines of dialogue that show how a character responds to the fallen plant. Circle two descriptive details that help you understand a character's feelings. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does Mina say that shows she feels responsible when the plant falls?	**"I promised Ms. Lee I would keep them safe."**
2	What detail about Mina shows how she feels before asking if the plant can grow? What feeling does it suggest?	**Mina's cheeks feel hot, which suggests she is embarrassed or worried.**
3	How do Theo's words and actions show his response to the fallen plant? Give one example of each.	**Theo says the roots are still in the soil and brushes dirt from the leaves. His words and actions show that he is trying to help.**
4	Near the end, what description shows Mina's feelings have changed? What does it suggest?	**Mina's shoulders relax, suggesting she feels relieved.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I knocked over the blue paint, and a puddle spread across our class poster. I gripped my paintbrush so tightly that my fingers ached. "I didn't mean to spill it," I told Jay. Jay slid me some paper towels, and we dabbed the paint before it reached the title. My hands stopped shaking when we painted the stars again.

Accept other passage-supported feelings when students explain the detail they chose. For the writing task, look for 4 to 5 sentences with dialogue and at least two details that develop the character's response and the next event.