The Spoon Chime

Follow a story as it moves between past and present.

5.RL.10.a "Read and comprehend grade-appropriate texts with increasing challenge in text difficulty and complexity (e.g., layout, text structure, language/literary features, knowledge demands)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the time clue near the start of each paragraph, then number the paragraphs in the order their events happened.

The Sound at the Gate

(1) This morning, Leena stopped at the community garden gate. The spoon chime above it hung crooked and silent. One silver spoon lay in the mud, its string snapped. She picked it up but did not go inside. Even the sparrows seemed to be waiting for a sound that had always greeted her. Leena tucked the spoon into her gardening bag and remembered how the chime got there.

(2) Last October, Leena and her older brother, Ravi, had tied four old spoons to a branch by the gate. They had argued about the knots until the wind made the spoons tap together. "It sounds like the garden is saying hello," Ravi had said. A week later, he moved across the country. Leena had visited the garden since then, but she never touched their chime.

(3) Back at the gate this morning, Leena drew a length of twine from her gardening bag. Her fingers shook as she tied the fallen spoon beside the others. A breeze came through the fence, and the spoons gave a small, uneven song. Leena smiled. It did not sound exactly as it had when Ravi was there, but she pushed open the gate and stepped inside.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why does the story move back to last October? How does that scene help you understand why Leena pauses at the gate?

2. The story says, “Even the sparrows seemed to be waiting.” What does this suggest about how Leena hears the silence?

3. Why might Leena’s fingers shake as she ties the spoon? Use a detail from the earlier scene.

4. At the end, Leena steps inside the garden. What has changed since the first paragraph?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence scene set when Ravi visits the garden again. Include a time clue, a sound detail, and an action that shows how Leena feels without naming her feeling.

The Spoon Chime

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the time clue near the start of each paragraph, then number the paragraphs in the order their events happened. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why does the story move back to last October? How does that scene help you understand why Leena pauses at the gate?	**The earlier scene shows that Leena made the chime with Ravi before he moved away. Its silence reminds her that she misses him.**
2	The story says, "Even the sparrows seemed to be waiting." What does this suggest about how Leena hears the silence?	**The missing chime is so noticeable to Leena that she imagines even the sparrows expect to hear it.**
3	Why might Leena's fingers shake as she ties the spoon? Use a detail from the earlier scene.	**Fixing the chime brings back memories of making it with Ravi, who has moved away.**
4	At the end, Leena steps inside the garden. What has changed since the first paragraph?	**At first, Leena stops outside when she finds the chime silent. After she repairs it and hears it again, she is ready to enter the garden.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The following spring, Ravi stood beside the garden gate with a suitcase at his feet. The spoons tapped a crooked rhythm as the wind passed. Leena dropped her trowel and ran down the path. She held the gate open for him, then reached for his hand.

For the marking job, accept the paragraphs numbered 2, 1, 3, with "This morning," "Last October," and "Back at the gate this morning" underlined. For the questions, accept supported interpretations expressed in the student's own words.