The Last Seedling

Trace how three scenes build a story's plot.

5.RL.5 "Explain how a series of chapters, scenes, or stanzas fits together to develop the plot and provide the overall structure of a particular literary text (e.g. plot diagram)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each scene number. Underline one event in each scene that sets up the next scene or brings the story to a close.

The Missing Name

1. Scene 1: On the morning of the school plant sale, Maya carried a tray of sunflower seedlings into the courtyard. Each pot had a name tag for the family that had grown it. A sharp wind swept across the tables, and the paper tags flew into a puddle. Without the names, Maya could not return the extra plants to their growers after the sale.

2. Scene 2: Maya tried to read the wet tags, but the ink had spread into blue clouds. Her friend Eli spotted tiny marks scratched into the bottoms of the pots. At first Maya thought they were cracks. Then she remembered the families had carved their initials there before planting. She and Eli turned each pot over and wrote down the initials, but one pot seemed to have no mark.

3. Scene 3: As the last customers left, a little boy pointed to the unmarked pot. “That's ours,” he said. “I drew a star under it.” Maya looked again and found a star hidden beneath a clump of soil. She matched the final pot to its family and returned every extra seedling. Next year, she decided, the pots would carry both carved marks and waterproof tags.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the wind in Scene 1 set up the action in Scene 2?

2. How does finding the carved initials in Scene 2 move the plot toward a solution?

3. Why does Scene 2 end with a pot that seems to have no mark?

4. How does Scene 3 solve the problem from Scene 1 and show what Maya learned?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a different Scene 3 in three sentences. Show Maya solving the unmarked-pot problem in a new way, then write one more sentence explaining how Scenes 1 and 2 lead to your ending.

ANSWER KEY

The Last Seedling

GRADE 5 · 5.RL.5

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle each scene number. Underline one event in each scene that sets up the next scene or brings the story to a close. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the wind in Scene 1 set up the action in Scene 2?	**The wind blows the name tags into a puddle. When Maya cannot read them, she looks for another way to identify the pots.**
2	How does finding the carved initials in Scene 2 move the plot toward a solution?	**The initials let Maya and Eli identify most of the pots without the ruined tags.**
3	Why does Scene 2 end with a pot that seems to have no mark?	**That pot leaves one seedling unidentified, so the problem is not fully solved until Scene 3.**
4	How does Scene 3 solve the problem from Scene 1 and show what Maya learned?	**Maya finds the hidden star and returns the last seedling. Her plan to use waterproof tags shows she learned how to prevent the same problem.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Maya asks the families still at the sale if they remember anything unusual about their pots. One family remembers a chipped rim, and Maya finds the chip on the last pot. She returns the seedling and decides to use waterproof tags next year. The wind in Scene 1 loses the names, and the unmarked pot in Scene 2 leaves one last seedling for Maya to identify.

Accept other accurate explanations of how each scene creates, develops, or resolves the problem. For Your Turn, look for a new solution that fits the first two scenes and a sentence that explains their connection to the ending.