Garden Story Makeover

Read a writer's draft, feedback, and revisions.

5.W.5 "Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, drafting, revising, editing, or rewriting with guidance and support from peers, adults, and digital tools…"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the original opening and ending, then circle their revised versions. Compare how each change strengthens the story.

A Story Grows

1. After a windy night, I wrote a story about cleaning our school garden. My first draft began, "The garden was a mess." That line did not show what I saw. My plan listed a tipped watering can, soil across the path, and a snapped sunflower stem. I rewrote the opening: "A tipped watering can lay beside a snapped sunflower, and dark soil covered the path."

2. My partner read the next part and asked, "How did you save the seeds?" My draft had jumped from finding a torn seed packet to planting new seeds. I added, "Luis held the packet over a clean jar while I picked the dry seeds from the dirt." Now a reader could follow the action. My teacher also suggested ending with a sign of hope, not just a list of chores.

3. I changed the ending from "We went home" to "By the next week, tiny green shoots pushed through the soil beside a new sunflower stake." Before sharing my story, I checked it for mistakes. I changed "Me and Luis was careful" to "Luis and I were careful." I also checked that each sentence ended with a period. My final story showed both the damage and the work that helped our garden grow again.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Name two details from the plan that appear in the new opening. How do they improve the opening?

2. What did the partner ask, and what action did the writer add to answer that question?

3. How does the new ending follow the teacher's suggestion? Include one detail from the ending.

4. What two changes did the writer make when editing "Me and Luis was careful"?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence scene about finding something unexpected at school. Copy one sentence from your scene, revise it to add a detail a reader might ask for, and write one sentence explaining how the change helps. Check your capitals and punctuation.

ANSWER KEY

Garden Story Makeover

GRADE 5 · 5.W.5

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the original opening and ending, then circle their revised versions. Compare how each change strengthens the story. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name two details from the plan that appear in the new opening. How do they improve the opening?	**The tipped watering can and soil across the path appear in the new opening. They help readers picture the garden instead of just hearing that it was a mess. The snapped sunflower also counts as a detail.**
2	What did the partner ask, and what action did the writer add to answer that question?	**The partner asked how they saved the seeds. The writer added Luis holding the packet over a jar while the narrator picked dry seeds from the dirt.**
3	How does the new ending follow the teacher's suggestion? Include one detail from the ending.	**The tiny green shoots show that the garden is growing again, giving the story a hopeful ending.**
4	What two changes did the writer make when editing "Me and Luis was careful"?	**The writer changed "Me and Luis" to "Luis and I" and "was" to "were."**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Scene: A small box sat outside our classroom door. I opened it. Inside, I found a paper crown with my name on it.
Original: I opened it.
Revised: I lifted the blue lid and peeked inside the box.
Why: The new sentence shows exactly what I did before finding the crown.

Accept any two planned details that appear in the new opening. For Part 3, look for a three-sentence scene, an exact copy of one sentence, a revision that adds a useful detail, and a clear explanation.