Garden Mix-Ups

Make every description point to the right thing.

7.L.1.d "Recognize and correct misplaced and dangling modifiers."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the four sentences in which a describing phrase points to the wrong thing or to something that cannot do the action. Circle the phrase that causes each mix-up.

A Closer Look at the Garden

1. On Saturday, our class visited the school garden to look for insects that help plants. Maya carried a jar to the garden filled with ladybugs. She kept its lid closed until we reached the bean plants. Near the gate, I lifted the stiff latch so everyone could enter. After opening the gate, the tomato leaves brushed my sleeve. I stepped aside and noticed pale green specks along one stem. Our teacher asked us to watch before touching anything, so we knelt beside the plants and waited.

2. Our teacher lent me a magnifying glass and pointed toward a curled leaf. Holding a magnifying glass, tiny aphids appeared on the underside of the leaf. I counted six before they crawled out of sight. Aphids feed on plant sap, and ladybugs eat aphids, so the two insects often meet in gardens. Maya set her jar on the path and opened it gently. A ladybug climbed onto a bean leaf while the rest stayed near the rim. We wrote down what we saw instead of guessing what might happen next.

3. Leo wanted a close photograph, but he stayed far enough back to avoid shaking the leaf. He pointed to something small and red among the green leaves. Leo photographed a beetle on a leaf with red wing covers. When he showed us the picture, we could see its tiny black spots, too. Later, our teacher asked us to describe the garden visit for the class newsletter. A reader who was not there would need clear sentences to understand what we had seen and done.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Rewrite the sentence about Maya's jar so it is clear what was filled with ladybugs.

2. Who opened the gate? Rewrite the sentence about the tomato leaves so it names that person.

3. Rewrite the sentence about the magnifying glass so the opening words describe the person holding it.

4. Rewrite Leo's photograph sentence so it is clear which creature had red wing covers.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one sentence with a misplaced modifier and one with a dangling modifier about a trip to a park or market. Rewrite each sentence so its meaning is clear.

ANSWER KEY # Garden Mix-Ups

GRADE 7 · 7.L.1.d

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the four sentences in which a describing phrase points to the wrong thing or to something that cannot do the action. Circle the phrase that causes each mix-up. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Rewrite the sentence about Maya's jar so it is clear what was filled with ladybugs.	**Maya carried a jar filled with ladybugs to the garden.**
2	Who opened the gate? Rewrite the sentence about the tomato leaves so it names that person.	**The narrator opened the gate. After I opened the gate, the tomato leaves brushed my sleeve.**
3	Rewrite the sentence about the magnifying glass so the opening words describe the person holding it.	**Holding a magnifying glass, I saw tiny aphids on the underside of the leaf.**
4	Rewrite Leo's photograph sentence so it is clear which creature had red wing covers.	**Leo photographed a beetle with red wing covers on a leaf.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I noticed a dog beside the fountain wearing a yellow raincoat. I noticed a dog wearing a yellow raincoat beside the fountain. Walking past the pond, my shoes were splashed by ducks. Walking past the pond, I got splashed by ducks.

For Part 1, accept the four sentences addressed in the questions, with their misleading phrases circled. Accept other rewrites that clearly attach each modifier to its intended person or thing.