The Watering Can

Use an objective summary to support a theme.

9-10.RL.2.b "Provide an objective summary of the text to support thematic analysis."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the events that change what happens, circle the outcomes, and number the underlined events in order. Use your marks to separate essential events from smaller details.

Before the Delivery

1. For six weeks, Leena had measured the striped melon in her plot at the neighborhood garden. The harvest contest offered a blue ribbon and a place for the winner's photograph on the library wall. Leena wrote each measurement in a notebook and planned to bring the melon on Saturday. On Thursday, the garden's rain barrel was nearly empty after a hot, dry spell. Across the path, a row of young bean plants drooped beside the plots tended by families who shared their harvest with the food pantry. The garden coordinator said a water delivery would not arrive until Sunday.

2. Leena carried her watering can to the barrel before anyone else arrived. A full can would keep her melon watered until the contest, but the barrel held enough for only a few trips. She filled the can, walked past her plot, and poured the water around the bean plants instead. When Mr. Ortiz arrived, she explained what she had done and asked him to help spread the remaining water. They took turns filling the can and soaking the soil at the base of each plant. By noon, the barrel was empty, and Leena's melon leaves had begun to curl.

3. On Saturday, Leena brought her melon to the contest anyway. It was smaller than the one she had pictured in her notebook, and another gardener won the ribbon. After the judging, Leena crossed the path to the beans. Their leaves stood upright, though several plants were still thin. Mr. Ortiz showed her a list of neighbors who had agreed to bring water from home until the delivery arrived. A week later, the families picked the first handful of beans for the pantry. Leena added that date to her notebook beneath the last measurement of her melon.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In one sentence, summarize the conflict that develops in the first paragraph. Why does it belong in a summary of the story?

2. In one sentence, summarize Leena's choice in the second paragraph and its immediate effect on her plot.

3. Name one detail from the first paragraph that you would leave out of a brief summary. Explain why.

4. In one sentence, objectively summarize both the contest result and the later result for the bean plants.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write four or five sentences that objectively summarize the story's main conflict, Leena's decision, and both outcomes. Add one sentence explaining a theme supported by the events in your summary.

ANSWER KEY # The Watering Can

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the events that change what happens, circle the outcomes, and number the underlined events in order. Use your marks to separate essential events from smaller details. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In one sentence, summarize the conflict that develops in the first paragraph. Why does it belong in a summary of the story?	**Leena wants her melon to grow for the contest, but the garden has little water and the bean plants are drooping. This conflict leads to her decision about where to use the water.**
2	In one sentence, summarize Leena's choice in the second paragraph and its immediate effect on her plot.	**Leena waters the bean plants instead of her melon, and her melon's leaves begin to curl.**
3	Name one detail from the first paragraph that you would leave out of a brief summary. Explain why.	**The winner's photograph would hang on the library wall. This detail is not needed to explain Leena's choice or its outcomes.**
4	In one sentence, objectively summarize both the contest result and the later result for the bean plants.	**Another gardener wins the contest, while the bean plants survive and produce beans for the pantry.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Leena plans to enter her melon in a garden contest. Before the contest, the garden's rain barrel runs low, and bean plants grown for a food pantry need water. Leena uses the remaining water on the beans instead of her melon. Another gardener wins the contest, while neighbors arrange to bring more water for the beans. A week later, the families harvest beans for the pantry. These events suggest that helping others can matter more than winning recognition.

Accept summaries that accurately select and connect the conflict, decision, and outcomes without adding judgments or unsupported motives. The theme may differ from the sample if the summarized events support it.