

Seeds of Change

Find the purpose and message in a story.

3.10.A "explain the author's purpose and message within a text;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that show Maya helping other people. Circle the sentence that states the story's big message, then use your marks to explain the author's purpose and message.

The Seed Library

- ① On Saturday, Maya visited the library with her grandfather. Near the front desk, she saw a wooden box filled with tiny paper packets. A sign said, "Take a seed, grow a plant, and return seeds next season." Maya chose bean seeds, but she wondered why the library was giving them away. She held the packet carefully and imagined green vines climbing a pole in her yard.
- ② Grandfather explained that the seed box was a seed library. People could borrow seeds, plant them, and save some new seeds after the harvest. Then other families could grow food too. Maya thought about the empty flowerpot on her apartment steps. She decided to plant the beans and share any extra beans with Mrs. Chen next door.
- ③ By summer, Maya's bean plants had curled around a tall stick. She picked a bowl of crisp beans and carried half to Mrs. Chen. Mrs. Chen smiled and gave Maya tomato seeds for the next season. Maya understood that one small packet could help many people. She tucked away several bean seeds, ready to add them to the library box.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is the author's purpose for writing this story? Use one detail from the story to support your answer.

2 What message does the story teach?

3 How do Maya's actions support the story's message? Give two actions.

4 How does the ending help the author communicate the message?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence mini-story whose purpose is to entertain and teach a message about helping a group. On a new line, write one sentence that states the message.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two details that show Maya helping other people. Circle the sentence that states the story's big message, then use your marks to explain the author's purpose and message. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the author's purpose for writing this story? Use one detail from the story to support your answer.	The author wants to entertain readers and teach that sharing can help a community. For example, Maya shares beans with Mrs. Chen and saves seeds for the library.
2	What message does the story teach?	Small acts of sharing can help many people.
3	How do Maya's actions support the story's message? Give two actions.	Maya shares her extra beans with Mrs. Chen, and she saves bean seeds to return to the library box.
4	How does the ending help the author communicate the message?	Maya puts seeds aside for the library, showing that one person's sharing can help other people grow food later.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

When the playground ball rolled into a muddy ditch, Luis found a long branch. He and two classmates used it to pull the ball out, then they placed the branch beside the ditch for others. At recess, more children used the branch to rescue toys without getting muddy. Message: Working together can solve a problem for everyone.

Accept reasonable statements of purpose that include entertaining and teaching about sharing or helping others. Accept message wording such as sharing, kindness, or small helpful actions can benefit a community when supported by passage details.