

Small Idea, Bright Place

Notice how one clear idea grows through useful details.

3.11.B.ii “developing an engaging idea with relevant details;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that tells Maya's main idea. Circle six details that help you picture how her idea becomes a garden and what happens because of it.

A Garden by the Steps

- ① On Saturday morning, Maya found a patch of bare dirt beside the apartment steps. It looked dull, but she pictured bright flowers buzzing with bees. She asked her neighbors if they would help make a small garden. Soon, Mr. Chen brought a shovel, and Maya's brother carried a watering can. The empty spot began to feel like a place with a purpose.
- ② First, the group pulled out weeds and picked up broken bottles. Then they pressed sunflower and marigold seeds into soft soil. Maya chose these flowers because their yellow and orange petals would be easy to see from the sidewalk. Each person had a useful job, so the work moved quickly. By noon, neat rows curved around a flat stone path.
- ③ Every afternoon, Maya checked the soil with one finger and added water when it felt dry. Two weeks later, green shoots poked through the ground. A month after that, the first flowers opened, and butterflies fluttered above them. Neighbors stopped to look and talk beside the steps. Maya's small idea had turned a forgotten patch into a colorful meeting place.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What main idea does the writer develop throughout the passage?

2 Which words in paragraph 1 make Maya's idea sound engaging? What do those words help you picture?

3 Write two details from paragraph 2 that are relevant to making the garden. Explain how each detail supports the main idea.

4 How does paragraph 3 show that Maya's idea mattered to the neighbors?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a small change you would like to make at school or at home. Write exactly 3 sentences: state your idea in the first sentence, then use concrete, relevant details in the next two sentences to show how it would work or why it matters.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that tells Maya's main idea. Circle six details that help you picture how her idea becomes a garden and what happens because of it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What main idea does the writer develop throughout the passage?	Maya and her neighbors turn a bare patch of dirt beside the apartment steps into a small flower garden.
2	Which words in paragraph 1 make Maya's idea sound engaging? What do those words help you picture?	"bright flowers buzzing with bees" makes the idea engaging and helps readers picture a lively, colorful garden.
3	Write two details from paragraph 2 that are relevant to making the garden. Explain how each detail supports the main idea.	Pulling weeds and picking up broken bottles clears the space for a garden. Pressing seeds into soft soil begins growing the flowers.
4	How does paragraph 3 show that Maya's idea mattered to the neighbors?	Flowers and butterflies appear, and neighbors stop beside the steps to look and talk. The garden becomes a colorful meeting place.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our class needs a cozy reading nook near the window. We could spread a blue rug there, add a low shelf of funny books, and place two soft cushions beside it. During quiet reading time, students could choose a book and settle into the bright corner.

Accept any circled details that clearly develop Maya's garden idea, including actions, descriptions, and results. For the writing task, accept three sentences with one focused idea and concrete details that directly support it.