Seeds of Change

Find details that build the story's important idea.

3.7.G "discuss specific ideas in the text that are important to the meaning."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details that show the garden changed the lot or brought neighbors together. Number the details 1, 2, and 3, with 1 beside the detail you think is most important to the story's meaning.

The Empty Lot

1. On Saturday, Maya carried a small tomato plant to the empty lot beside her apartment. The lot was filled with rocks and weeds. Mr. Chen, who lived upstairs, was already there with a shovel. "I thought we could make a garden," he said. Maya looked at the hard ground and wondered if one plant could make any difference.

2. By noon, three neighbors had joined them. One pulled weeds, and another brought water in a blue bucket. Maya placed her tomato plant in a soft patch of soil they had made together. She noticed that the lot did not look so lonely anymore. The work was muddy and slow, but each person added something useful.

3. A week later, tiny yellow flowers opened on Maya's plant. More people stopped by the lot. Some asked whether they could grow beans or carrots. Maya gave them the extra seed packets Mr. Chen had shared. She remembered her first doubt. The garden was still small, yet it had changed an empty place into a spot where neighbors worked and talked together.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What important idea does the story show? Use the events in the story to help you answer.

2. How does the detail that each person added something useful support the story's important idea?

3. Why is Maya's first doubt important to the meaning of the story?

4. How do the neighbors asking about beans and carrots support the story's important idea?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two sentences that explain how two details from the story work together to show why the garden matters. Name both details and state what they show.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three details that show the garden changed the lot or brought neighbors together. Number the details 1, 2, and 3, with 1 beside the detail you think is most important to the story's meaning. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What important idea does the story show? Use the events in the story to help you answer.	**People working together can change an empty place and help neighbors connect.**
2	How does the detail that each person added something useful support the story's important idea?	**It shows that the garden improved because many neighbors helped in different ways.**
3	Why is Maya's first doubt important to the meaning of the story?	**Her doubt makes the later change clearer. She learns that even a small garden can make a difference.**
4	How do the neighbors asking about beans and carrots support the story's important idea?	**It shows that more neighbors want to join the garden, so the shared project is bringing people together.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At first, the lot is full of rocks and weeds, but later Maya sees yellow flowers on her plant. These details show that steady work can change a neglected place.

Accept answers that state an important idea about teamwork, change, or neighbors connecting and support it with accurate story details. For Part 1, accept any three relevant details showing the lot's change or the neighbors' shared work.