

Garden Story Moves

Notice how place, time, and weather move a story forward.

3.8.D "explain the influence of the setting on the plot."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words that tell where or when the story happens. Circle setting details that change what Mara does or what happens next.

Mara at the Garden

- ① On Saturday morning, Mara carried a basket to the community garden. The garden sat beside a busy street, but tall sunflowers made it feel quiet. A wooden sign said the garden gate would close at noon. Mara planned to pick ripe tomatoes for her grandfather's soup before the gate closed. Dark clouds gathered over the city.
- ② At the first tomato plant, Mara heard thunder. Rain began to tap the leaves, and wind bent the sunflower stems. The muddy paths became slippery. Mara could not hurry from plant to plant without falling, so she chose only the reddest tomatoes near the gate. She put them in her basket and looked toward the closing entrance.
- ③ Then Mara saw Mr. Lee, the garden keeper, walking toward the gate with his key. She called to him, but the wind carried her voice away. Because the street was noisy and the rain was getting harder, he did not hear her. Mara ran carefully along the short path and reached the gate just as Mr. Lee began to lock it. He held it open, and Mara hurried out.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How does the gate's closing time influence Mara's plan?

2 How do the rain and muddy paths change what Mara does in the garden?

3 Why does Mara run carefully along the path near the end?

4 How do the noisy street and wind influence the ending?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence mini-story set in a place and time you choose. Include two setting details that cause the character to change a plan or solve a problem.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline words that tell where or when the story happens. Circle setting details that change what Mara does or what happens next. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the gate's closing time influence Mara's plan?	It gives Mara a deadline to pick tomatoes before the gate closes.
2	How do the rain and muddy paths change what Mara does in the garden?	She cannot move quickly between plants, so she picks only tomatoes near the gate.
3	Why does Mara run carefully along the path near the end?	The rain has made the paths muddy and slippery.
4	How do the noisy street and wind influence the ending?	Mr. Lee cannot hear Mara call, so she must run to the gate before it locks.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the beach, Niko built a sandcastle near the water. When the tide rose, waves washed around his bucket, so he moved his castle tools to the picnic table. From there, he saw a lost kite caught in a dune and returned it to its owner.

Accept answers that connect a setting detail, such as the closing time, weather, muddy paths, wind, or noisy street, to an action or event. In the open response, accept any clear three-sentence story with two setting details that affect the plot.