

Garden of Choices

Use character choices and events to infer a lesson in a story.

4.8.A “infer basic themes supported by text evidence;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two character choices or events that show a lesson about helping others, and number them 1 and 2. Circle words that tell what changed because people worked together.

The Shared Garden

- ① On Saturday, Mina carried a tray of tomato seedlings to the community garden. Her uncle had saved the plants from his windowsill all winter. Mina wanted the tallest plant for her own plot, but every plot had dry, cracked soil. Near the fence, Mr. Ortiz tried to pull a heavy water barrel across the path. Its wheel was stuck in a hole.
- ② Mina glanced at her seedlings. She could have hurried to claim a sunny corner, but she set down the tray. Together, she and Mr. Ortiz lifted the barrel and freed its wheel. Water spilled into the dusty path. Then Mina asked three nearby gardeners to bring buckets. Soon, they had enough water to soften the soil in every plot.
- ③ At sunset, Mina planted the smallest seedling beside a bean pole. She gave the tallest plant to a younger child whose hands were too small to lift the watering can. A week later, green shoots rose from all the plots. Mr. Ortiz thanked Mina for noticing what the garden needed. Mina smiled when she saw neighbors sharing water, tools, and seeds.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is the best theme of the story?

2 Which two events best support the theme that helping others can benefit everyone?

3 How does Mina's choice to give the tallest plant to the younger child develop the theme?

4 What is another theme the story suggests? Use two details from the story to support your answer.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a four-sentence mini-story that shows a theme about helping, sharing, or perseverance. Then write one theme sentence and name two details from your story that support it.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two character choices or events that show a lesson about helping others, and number them 1 and 2. Circle words that tell what changed because people worked together. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the best theme of the story?	A community becomes stronger when people help one another.
2	Which two events best support the theme that helping others can benefit everyone?	Mina helps Mr. Ortiz free the water barrel, and she asks gardeners to bring buckets so every plot can get water.
3	How does Mina's choice to give the tallest plant to the younger child develop the theme?	Mina puts another person's need before her own, showing kindness and sharing.
4	What is another theme the story suggests? Use two details from the story to support your answer.	Sharing what you have can help a whole group. Mina shares the water effort with every plot, and the neighbors later share water, tools, and seeds.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Jay found the class paint trays still dirty after art time. He wanted to leave for recess, but he washed the trays and asked Sam to dry them. Sam showed two other students how to stack the clean trays. The next class found every color ready to use. Theme: Working together makes hard jobs easier. Evidence: Jay washed the trays, and several students helped stack them.

Accept a reasonable theme that is supported by at least two accurate details from the passage. Theme statements should be broad lessons, not only a summary of what Mina did.