Seeds That Speak

Identify why an author writes and what the text says.

5.10.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 reveal why the author wrote this text. Circle the sentence that best states the text's message.

The Library Seed Shelf

1 On a rainy Saturday, Maya visited the Maple Street Library for a comic book. Near the checkout desk, she noticed small envelopes standing in a wooden box. Each envelope held seeds for beans, zinnias, or basil. A sign said, "Take a packet, grow it, and save some seeds to share." Maya had never seen a library lend something that could become a garden.

2 The seed shelf began after local gardeners asked for a simple way to share extra seeds. Library volunteers sorted donations and wrote planting tips on labels. Anyone could borrow a packet without a library card, so families who did not have money for garden supplies could try growing food or flowers. The shelf also gave neighbors a reason to talk about soil, weather, and successful plants.

3 Before leaving, Maya chose basil seeds and a label explaining that basil needs sun and regular watering. She pictured pizza topped with leaves from her own pot. At home, she told her grandfather about the seed shelf. He offered to help her plant the seeds, and he planned to donate marigold seeds from his yard. Maya realized that one small packet could help many people learn, grow, and share.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the author's main purpose for writing this text?

2. What message does the author communicate through Maya's realization at the end?

3. Which two details show that the seed shelf is meant to be available to many people?

4. Why does the author include Maya's conversation with her grandfather?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence mini-story about a shared resource, such as a book box, food pantry, or tool shelf. Then write two sentences that state your purpose as the author and the message of your story.

ANSWER KEY # Seeds That Speak

GRADE 5 · TEKS 5.10.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details that reveal why the author wrote this text. Circle the sentence that best states the text's 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 main purpose for writing this text?	**To inform readers about a library seed shelf and show how it helps people in the community.**
2	What message does the author communicate through Maya's realization at the end?	**Sharing a small resource can help many people learn, grow, and connect with one another.**
3	Which two details show that the seed shelf is meant to be available to many people?	**Anyone can borrow a packet without a library card, and families without money for garden supplies can try growing food or flowers.**
4	Why does the author include Maya's conversation with her grandfather?	**It shows that the seed shelf inspires people to grow seeds and share seeds with others.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the park, Luis found a free little pantry stocked with canned soup and soap. He took what his family needed, then returned the next day with extra toothpaste. Soon, other neighbors added items too. My purpose is to show how a shared pantry can meet needs. My message is that small acts of sharing can strengthen a community.

Accept purpose statements that identify both informing readers about the seed shelf and showing its community benefits. Accept message statements about sharing resources, helping others, learning, growing, or building community when supported by the passage.