

Mud Socks Mystery

Notice how word choices create a narrator's voice.

5.10.F "examine how the author's use of language contributes to voice; and"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three words or phrases that make the narrator sound playful or eager, and circle one phrase that shows the narrator's attitude changes. These language choices create the narrator's voice.

A Garden Surprise

- ① On Saturday, I followed Grandpa to the community garden before the sun had fully yawned awake. The air smelled like wet dirt and tomato leaves, which is not a perfume anyone will bottle. Grandpa handed me a shovel taller than my little cousin. "We are hunting for treasure," he said. I hoped the treasure was a snack.
- ② Instead, we found a crooked row of bean plants leaning over like tired campers. I wanted to straighten every stem at once, but Grandpa moved slowly, patting soil around each plant. "Roots need room to breathe," he explained. I copied him, even though my hands were buzzing to race ahead. Soon, the row looked less like a tumble and more like a green parade.
- ③ Then Grandpa pointed to a tiny green bean hiding beneath a leaf. It was no bigger than my thumb, yet I felt as if we had discovered a secret kingdom. By noon, my shoes wore thick mud socks, and I had stopped wishing for a snack. I carried home one bean in my pocket, like proof that small jobs can grow into surprising things.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What does the phrase “the sun had fully yawned awake” show about the narrator’s voice?

2 Why does the narrator say that wet dirt and tomato leaves are “not a perfume anyone will bottle”?

3 How do the phrases “my hands were buzzing to race ahead” and “thick mud socks” help show the narrator’s personality?

4 Which words show that the narrator’s attitude changes by the end of the passage? Explain the change.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences about helping with a chore. Give the narrator a playful, eager voice by using at least two vivid or humorous words or phrases, and underline those language choices.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three words or phrases that make the narrator sound playful or eager, and circle one phrase that shows the narrator's attitude changes. These language choices create the narrator's voice. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does the phrase "the sun had fully yawned awake" show about the narrator's voice?	It shows a playful voice because the narrator describes the sun as if it were a person waking up.
2	Why does the narrator say that wet dirt and tomato leaves are "not a perfume anyone will bottle"?	The narrator uses humor to describe the garden smell, showing a playful and slightly teasing voice.
3	How do the phrases "my hands were buzzing to race ahead" and "thick mud socks" help show the narrator's personality?	They show that the narrator is energetic and notices ordinary things in a humorous, imaginative way.
4	Which words show that the narrator's attitude changes by the end of the passage? Explain the change.	"I had stopped wishing for a snack" shows the change. At first, the narrator cares about getting food, but later the narrator is interested in the garden work and the bean.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I attacked __the mountain of laundry__ with a basket that bumped against my knees. Each sock was __a slippery little fish__, but I matched it with its partner. When the last shirt landed in the drawer, I felt like the champion of Clean Room City.

Accept answers that identify specific language from the passage and connect it to a playful, eager, humorous, or changing narrator voice. For Part 3, accept any three-sentence response about a chore with at least two underlined language choices that clearly create a playful, eager voice.