

Seeds of Meaning

Trace how a writer's choices build a message.

5.10 "Author's purpose and craft: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts. The student uses critical inquiry to analyze the authors' choices and how they influence and communicate meaning within a variety of..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two words or phrases that create a picture or comparison, circle every use of I or my, and number 1, 2, and 3 beside sentences that show the beginning, middle, and end of the event.

A Pot at the Bus Stop

- ① On Saturday, I carried a cracked clay pot to the neighborhood seed swap. The table held envelopes of bean, basil, and sunflower seeds. Mrs. Chen pressed a packet of zinnia seeds into my hand and said, "Plant these where people can see them." I pictured our gray bus stop glowing with color. The idea felt like a small lamp turning on.
- ② At home, my brother laughed. "That pot is so broken, it could hold a whole ocean!" The joke made me look closely at its wide crack. I covered the crack with tape, filled the pot with soil, and tucked in the seeds. Tap, tap, tap, the rain began on the window. Each sound made the waiting feel important.
- ③ Three weeks later, green shoots pushed through the soil. I set the pot beside the bus stop, where neighbors waited each morning. Soon, a girl bent down to inspect the leaves, and an older man asked for seeds for his porch. My little pot had become a bridge, carrying strangers toward one another. I learned that a shared garden can grow more than flowers.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is the author's purpose, and what message does the author communicate?

2 The author tells the events in time order and uses first-person words such as I. How do these choices support the author's purpose?

3 How does the title, "A Pot at the Bus Stop," work as a print feature that supports the passage's message?

4 What does the metaphor "My little pot had become a bridge" mean? How does it support the message?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a 3- or 4-sentence first-person anecdote about a small action that helps people connect. Give it a title, and use time-order words plus one simile or metaphor to communicate your message.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two words or phrases that create a picture or comparison, circle every use of I or my, and number 1, 2, and 3 beside sentences that show the beginning, middle, and end of the event. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the author's purpose, and what message does the author communicate?	The author shares a personal story to show that a small garden can connect neighbors. The message is that small shared actions can bring people together.
2	The author tells the events in time order and uses first-person words such as I. How do these choices support the author's purpose?	They make the story feel personal and help the reader follow how planting one pot led to neighbors connecting.
3	How does the title, "A Pot at the Bus Stop," work as a print feature that supports the passage's message?	The title draws attention to the ordinary pot and the shared bus stop, hinting that the pot will bring people in the community together.
4	What does the metaphor "My little pot had become a bridge" mean? How does it support the message?	The pot did not become a real bridge. It gave neighbors a reason to talk and share seeds, showing that the garden connected people.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Extra Umbrella First, I saw Maya at the school gate while rain soaked her backpack. I opened my umbrella, a small roof for both of us, and we walked to the bus together. Then Maya shared her dry scarf with a younger student. By the time the bus arrived, I saw that one kind choice can spread.

Accept equivalent answers that explain the author's purpose and connect each craft choice to the message of community connection. For Part 3, look for a title, first-person point of view, clear time order, and a simile or metaphor that supports a message.