

Garden Plans Clash

Analyze how character relationships shape a conflict.

5.8.B “analyze the relationships of and conflicts among the characters;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that show how Mei and Jordan relate to each other. Circle details that show what they disagree about or how their conflict changes.

The Garden Shelf

- ① On Saturday, Mei carried her grandfather’s old toolbox to the community garden. She planned to build a small shelf for seed packets before the rain arrived. Her cousin Jordan followed with a bag of nails. “We should make a birdhouse instead,” he said. Mei shook her head, because the gardeners had asked for the shelf last week.
- ② Jordan dropped the nails onto the bench. “A birdhouse would be more fun, and birds need homes,” he argued. Mei pointed to the dark clouds gathering above the fence. “The seeds will get wet without a shelf,” she replied. Jordan frowned. He liked working with Mei, but he hated feeling that his ideas were ignored. Mei tightened her grip on the toolbox handle.
- ③ Then Mrs. Alvarez, the garden leader, hurried over. She explained that the shelf could hold seeds now and become the bottom of a birdhouse later. Jordan studied the board. “If we add two side walls next month, it could work,” he said. Mei smiled and handed him the measuring tape. Together, they built the shelf before the first drops fell, and Jordan drew a birdhouse plan on the leftover wood.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is Mei and Jordan’s relationship, and how does that relationship affect their work together?

2 What is the main conflict between Mei and Jordan? Explain what each character wants.

3 How does the conflict affect Jordan’s feelings and actions in the second paragraph?

4 How does Mrs. Alvarez help change the conflict between Mei and Jordan?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write 4 to 5 sentences about two characters who know each other. Show their relationship, a conflict between them, and how the conflict changes or is resolved.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that show how Mei and Jordan relate to each other. Circle details that show what they disagree about or how their conflict changes. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is Mei and Jordan's relationship, and how does that relationship affect their work together?	They are cousins who like working together, but they have different ideas about what to build.
2	What is the main conflict between Mei and Jordan? Explain what each character wants.	Mei wants to build a shelf to protect the seed packets, while Jordan wants to build a birdhouse.
3	How does the conflict affect Jordan's feelings and actions in the second paragraph?	Jordan argues for the birdhouse, frowns, and feels that Mei is ignoring his ideas.
4	How does Mrs. Alvarez help change the conflict between Mei and Jordan?	She suggests building the shelf first and using it as the bottom of a birdhouse later, so both ideas can be included.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Rina and her older brother, Mateo, usually work well together on chores. When Mateo used Rina's painted sign for a lemonade stand without asking, Rina accused him of ruining her art. Mateo explained that he needed the sign quickly, but he apologized for not asking first. They made a new sign together, and Mateo let Rina choose the colors.

Accept answers that identify the cousins' competing goals and support ideas with passage details. For the open task, accept any clear relationship, conflict, and change or resolution shown through character actions or dialogue.