

Clues in the Garden

Read for what the text states and what its details suggest.

6.6.G “discuss and write about the explicit or implicit meanings of text;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that state information directly, then circle three details that help you infer an unstated idea. Number your circled details 1, 2, and 3 so you can use them as evidence.

The Step Garden

- ① On Saturday morning, Maya carried a paper bag to the empty lot beside her apartment building. The bag held six bean seedlings from the science club. She had planned to plant them near the fence, where sunlight reached the ground. When she arrived, she found a new sign taped to the gate: “Construction begins Monday. Keep out.” Maya read the sign twice. Then she set the bag on the sidewalk and looked through the rusty fence at the cracked soil.
- ② Mr. Alvarez, the building manager, came outside with a ring of keys. “The workers need this space clear,” he said. Maya nodded, but she did not pick up the bag. Instead, she pointed to a narrow strip of dirt beside the front steps. Mr. Alvarez frowned at the small space. Maya explained that beans could climb a string tied to the railing. After a long pause, he unlocked a storage closet and brought out a watering can. “Use this too,” he said.
- ③ By late afternoon, Maya had pressed the last seedling into the dirt. She tied soft twine from the railing to the ground, leaving room for the vines to grow. Two neighbors stopped to watch. One offered an old bucket for collecting rainwater, and the other promised to save vegetable scraps for compost. Maya wrote “Step Garden” on a cardboard label. On Monday, the construction crew rolled past the lot, but Maya was watering the seedlings by the front steps. The small garden did not replace the lost space, yet it changed who noticed it.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What does the gate sign state directly about the empty lot?

2 What can you infer about Maya when she leaves the bag on the sidewalk instead of taking it home? Use one detail as evidence.

3 What does Mr. Alvarez bringing Maya a watering can imply about his attitude toward her garden plan?

4 Which idea is stated explicitly, and which idea is implied: The new garden did not replace the lost lot, or Maya found another way to continue her project?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

What do the neighbors' actions suggest about the effect of the Step Garden on the community? Write exactly three sentences. State one inference, then support it with two different details from the passage.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two details that state information directly, then circle three details that help you infer an unstated idea. Number your circled details 1, 2, and 3 so you can use them as evidence. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does the gate sign state directly about the empty lot?	Construction will begin Monday, and people must keep out of the lot.
2	What can you infer about Maya when she leaves the bag on the sidewalk instead of taking it home? Use one detail as evidence.	Maya is determined to plant the seedlings. She looks for another place to plant them instead of giving up.
3	What does Mr. Alvarez bringing Maya a watering can imply about his attitude toward her garden plan?	He becomes supportive of Maya's plan. Giving her a watering can shows that he wants to help the garden succeed.
4	Which idea is stated explicitly, and which idea is implied: The new garden did not replace the lost lot, or Maya found another way to continue her project?	The garden did not replace the lost lot is stated explicitly. Maya found another way to continue her project is implied by her planting beside the steps.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The garden is beginning to bring neighbors together. One neighbor gives Maya a bucket to collect rainwater. Another neighbor promises vegetable scraps for compost.

Accept reasonable inferences that are supported by accurate details from the passage. For the open response, check for exactly three sentences, one clear inference, and two separate details about the neighbors' actions.