

Clues on the Bench

Use details from a story to support an inference.

7.5.F “make inferences and use evidence to support understanding;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that reveal Maya's actions, words, or feelings, then circle two clues you could use to support an inference about her.

The Garden Bench

- ① On Tuesday afternoon, Maya carried a small toolbox to the community garden behind her apartment building. The garden's wooden bench had a loose board that squeaked whenever anyone sat down. Mr. Chen, the volunteer who usually repaired things, had not come for two weeks. Maya set her backpack beside the bench, studied the rusty screws, and opened the toolbox. She had borrowed it from her aunt, who showed her how to use a screwdriver last summer.
- ② Her friend Luis arrived with two cups of lemonade and stopped at the gate. “Are you allowed to fix that?” he asked. Maya did not answer right away. She tightened one screw, then pressed the board with her palm. When it still moved, she frowned and looked through the toolbox again. At last, she chose a longer screw and carefully turned it until the board stayed still. Luis placed both lemonades on the ground and held the bench steady.
- ③ Just then, Mr. Chen walked around the corner carrying a bag of tomato plants. He paused when he saw Maya standing beside the bench. Maya wiped her hands on her jeans and pointed to the repaired board. Mr. Chen tested it by sitting down slowly. The squeak was gone. He smiled, handed Maya a tomato plant, and said, “This one needs a careful gardener.” Maya grinned as Luis picked up the lemonade. Before leaving, she wrote a note on the garden sign: “Bench fixed. Please sit gently.”

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What can you infer about why Maya does not answer Luis right away? Use two details from the passage to support your inference.

2 What can you infer about Luis's opinion of Maya's repair work? Use evidence from the passage.

3 What does Mr. Chen's gift of a tomato plant suggest about his opinion of Maya? Support your answer with evidence.

4 Why does Maya write a note asking people to sit gently? What does this action reveal about her? Use evidence from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence scene about a helpful action you could take in a shared place. Include two details from your scene, then state an inference a reader could make about you from those details.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that reveal Maya's actions, words, or feelings, then circle two clues you could use to support an inference about her. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What can you infer about why Maya does not answer Luis right away? Use two details from the passage to support your inference.	Maya may be unsure whether she is allowed to repair the bench, but she wants to solve the problem. She does not answer immediately, and she keeps working until the board stays still.
2	What can you infer about Luis's opinion of Maya's repair work? Use evidence from the passage.	Luis thinks Maya's work is important and wants to help. He puts down the lemonade and holds the bench steady while she works.
3	What does Mr. Chen's gift of a tomato plant suggest about his opinion of Maya? Support your answer with evidence.	Mr. Chen sees Maya as responsible and careful. He smiles after testing the bench, gives her a plant, and calls her a "careful gardener."
4	Why does Maya write a note asking people to sit gently? What does this action reveal about her? Use evidence from the passage.	Maya wants the repaired bench to stay safe for others, which shows that she cares about the shared garden. She repairs the loose board and then leaves a note for people who use it.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the library, I noticed a cart of books near the return slot and carried it to the shelving area. I placed each book in order by its call number and asked the librarian where one book belonged. A reader could infer that I care about keeping shared spaces useful because I worked carefully and asked for help rather than leaving the books in a pile.

Accept reasonable inferences that are supported by specific details from the passage. Students may word conclusions differently if their evidence clearly supports their thinking.