

More Than a Bench

Use details to notice both stated information and unstated ideas.

7.6.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 tell information directly. Circle three clues that suggest an unstated idea, then write a 1 beside the clues that show the bench becomes important to the community.

The Garden Bench

- ① On Saturday morning, Mira carried a paintbrush to the empty lot beside the library. The town had turned the lot into a small garden, but one wooden bench still looked gray and rough. Mr. Alvarez, the librarian, had asked for volunteers to freshen it before the garden's opening. Mira arrived early, expecting to work alone. Instead, she found a tray of paint cans waiting on the bench and a note taped to the backrest: “Choose a color that makes people want to stay.”
- ② By noon, three younger children had joined Mira. They argued cheerfully about blue, yellow, and green, then mixed a deep teal shade. Across the street, Mrs. Chen watched from her apartment window. She had not visited the garden since her husband died the previous winter. When the children waved, she lifted one hand but did not come down. Mira quietly painted a small sun on one end of the bench. “It needs a little light,” she said, though the day was already bright.
- ③ At the opening, the bench shone beside rows of tomatoes and marigolds. Mrs. Chen came slowly through the gate, carrying a paper bag. She placed several packets of sunflower seeds on the table and asked the children where they should be planted. Later, Mira saw Mrs. Chen sitting on the teal bench while two neighbors discussed recipes nearby. The bench held more than tired visitors now. It gave people a reason to pause, talk, and notice who else had come outside.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What did the note on the bench ask volunteers to choose?

2 What can you infer about how Mrs. Chen felt before the garden opening? Use one detail from the passage to support your inference.

3 What does Mira likely mean when she says the bench “needs a little light,” even though the day is bright?

4 What does the sentence “The bench held more than tired visitors now” suggest about the bench's new role?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly 3 sentences explaining one unstated message in the passage. Use at least two details from the passage to show how Mrs. Chen and the bench help develop that message.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two details that tell information directly. Circle three clues that suggest an unstated idea, then write a 1 beside the clues that show the bench becomes important to the community. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What did the note on the bench ask volunteers to choose?	A color that makes people want to stay.
2	What can you infer about how Mrs. Chen felt before the garden opening? Use one detail from the passage to support your inference.	She likely felt lonely or separated from others after her husband's death. She watched from her window and did not come down to the garden.
3	What does Mira likely mean when she says the bench “needs a little light,” even though the day is bright?	She means the bench needs warmth, cheer, or welcome, not actual sunlight.
4	What does the sentence “The bench held more than tired visitors now” suggest about the bench's new role?	The bench has become a place that helps people connect, talk, and build community.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

One unstated message is that a shared place can help people reconnect after loss. Mrs. Chen first watches from her window and does not enter the garden, which suggests she feels separate from others. At the opening, she brings sunflower seeds and sits near neighbors, showing that the bench and garden have helped welcome her back into the community.

Accept reasonable inferences that are supported by specific details from the passage. For the open response, look for a clear unstated message, two accurate details, and an explanation of how those details support the message.