Storm Garden Clues

Track character clues and language choices in a stormy garden scene.

5.RL.2 "Craft and Style Describe how an author develops a character through what characters say, think, do, and how other characters respond. Analyze the author's use of language (e.g., synonyms, figurative language, sensory words, dialogue..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two actions or spoken lines that show what Maya is like. Circle one comparison or sensory phrase that helps you picture the garden or understand the problem.

Maya's Garden Watch

1. Rain tapped the greenhouse roof as Maya hurried through the school garden. The young tomato plants bent like tired dancers, and a puddle shone beside the tool shed. "The wind will snap them," Maya said, clutching a roll of twine. Mr. Chen, the garden helper, watched from the doorway. "The gate is loose," he called, but Maya was already kneeling in the mud.

2. She tied each stem to a stake, pulling the knots tight with muddy fingers. When a small pot rolled toward the drain, Maya lunged and caught it. Mr. Chen stepped into the rain and held a tray over the seedlings. "You noticed every plant," he said. Maya's cheeks warmed, though rain ran down her nose. "They need us," she replied, handing him the twine.

3. By sunset, the clouds had drifted away, leaving the garden bright and wet. Maya checked the gate last, then pushed a brick against its bottom. Mr. Chen smiled. "You did not wait for someone else to fix things." Maya looked at the rows of leaves, sparkling like tiny mirrors. "Next time," she said, "we can make the garden stronger before the storm."

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do Maya's actions in paragraph 2 develop her character? Use two details from the paragraph.

2. What does Mr. Chen's response to Maya reveal about how he sees her? Use his words from the passage.

3. What does the comparison “bent like tired dancers” help you understand about the plants and the storm?

4. How does Maya's final line of dialogue move the plot forward?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three sentence scene about a character helping during a problem. Include one line of dialogue, one sensory detail or comparison, an action, and another character's response that reveals the character's trait.

ANSWER KEY

Storm Garden Clues

GRADE 5 · 5.RL.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two actions or spoken lines that show what Maya is like. Circle one comparison or sensory phrase that helps you picture the garden or understand the problem. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do Maya's actions in paragraph 2 develop her character? Use two details from the paragraph.	**Maya is caring and responsible. She ties the stems to stakes and lunges to catch the rolling pot so the plants will be safe.**
2	What does Mr. Chen's response to Maya reveal about how he sees her? Use his words from the passage.	**He sees Maya as observant and willing to take initiative. He says, "You noticed every plant" and "You did not wait for someone else to fix things."**
3	What does the comparison "bent like tired dancers" help you understand about the plants and the storm?	**It helps the reader picture the plants drooping or leaning in the wind. It makes the storm seem strong enough to threaten them.**
4	How does Maya's final line of dialogue move the plot forward?	**Her line changes the plan from saving the garden during this storm to preparing it before a future storm.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The gym lights flickered as Omar dragged a box of flashlights across the dusty floor. "Everyone, take one," he said, passing them to the younger students. Ms. Ruiz nodded as the room filled with soft beams, showing that Omar stayed calm when others needed help.

Accept supported traits such as caring, responsible, observant, or independent. For the writing task, accept varied situations if the response has three sentences and includes all required elements.