

Seeds and Sensors

Trace plot events, conflicts, and character change in a short story.

6.RL.1 "Key Ideas and Plot Details Summarize texts, including determining the central theme of stories, plays, or poems, and how they are conveyed through specific details..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number the exposition, initiating event, central conflict, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution in the passage. This will help you see how each event moves the plot forward.

The Blue Bean Plan

- ① On Saturday, twelve-year-old Lena unlocked the greenhouse behind Harbor Middle School. She hoped to enter the county garden contest with her late grandmother's blue bean seeds. Her teammate, Omar, arrived carrying a tablet and a plan for an automatic watering system. Lena preferred watering by hand, as her grandmother had taught her. When Omar accidentally knocked the seed jar from a shelf, several seeds rolled into a floor drain. Lena blamed him, although she also feared that trying his unfamiliar system would ruin the remaining seeds.
- ② Omar offered to buy new seeds, but Lena refused and ordered him out. By Monday, dry soil curled around the bean shoots, and the contest judge was due Friday. Lena tried to carry watering cans alone, then slipped and spilled water across the path. Seeing her struggle, Omar returned with a moisture sensor he had built from spare parts. Lena nearly told him to leave. Instead, she tested the sensor in one small bed. When its alarm beeped as the soil dried, Lena had to decide whether to trust Omar's invention before the shoots wilted.
- ③ The sensor guided them to water only the thirsty beds, and the shoots lifted by Thursday. Lena apologized for blaming Omar and asked him to explain the screen's numbers. Omar admitted that he should have secured the jar before reaching for it. At the contest, their beans did not win first prize, but the judge praised the healthy plants and careful teamwork. Lena saved seeds for next year and planned to combine hand watering with the sensor. She learned that honoring a tradition does not mean refusing useful new ideas.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is the initiating event? What external conflict and internal conflict does it create for Lena?

2 Identify the climax. Then name one event from the falling action and the resolution.

3 Lena is the protagonist. What opposing force acts as an antagonist, and how does Lena's change affect the plot?

4 What is one theme of the story? Support your answer with two details from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a six-sentence plot sketch about a protagonist facing one internal conflict and one external conflict. Include an opposing force, make the climax and resolution clear, show whether the protagonist changes, and end with a theme statement.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Number the exposition, initiating event, central conflict, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution in the passage. This will help you see how each event moves the plot forward. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the initiating event? What external conflict and internal conflict does it create for Lena?	The initiating event is Omar knocking over the seed jar, causing seeds to fall into the drain. The external conflict is Lena blaming Omar, an individual versus individual conflict. The internal conflict is Lena's fear that the unfamiliar watering system will ruin the seeds.
2	Identify the climax. Then name one event from the falling action and the resolution.	The climax is when Lena must decide whether to trust Omar's sensor before the shoots wilt. In the falling action, the sensor helps them water the thirsty beds and the shoots lift. The resolution includes Lena apologizing, learning about the sensor, and planning to use both hand watering and the sensor next year.
3	Lena is the protagonist. What opposing force acts as an antagonist, and how does Lena's change affect the plot?	Lena's fear and distrust of the new system act as an internal antagonistic force, while the dry soil is an external obstacle. Lena is dynamic because she changes from refusing Omar's help to testing the sensor and cooperating with him, which allows the plants to survive and resolves the conflict.
4	What is one theme of the story? Support your answer with two details from the passage.	One theme is that people can honor traditions while accepting useful new ideas. Lena tests Omar's sensor when the plants need water, and she later plans to combine hand watering with the sensor.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Jae, a new drummer, wanted to perform in the school parade. Rain began soaking the parade route and threatened to ruin his paper music, making nature an opposing force. Jae also feared that a mistake would embarrass him. As the rain grew heavier, his music blew from the stand, and Jae had to choose whether to stop or play from memory. He played from memory and finished the solo, showing that he had become more confident. The band reached the end of the route, and Jae learned that courage means continuing through fear.

Accept reasonable plot-stage boundaries when students support their choices with passage details. For the theme question, accept a closely related statement about balancing tradition with new ideas, supported by two accurate details.