Rooftop Garden Choices

Trace how a shared garden changes people's choices.

6.RL.3.A "Describe how the interactions between individuals, settings, events, and ideas within a text influence one another."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each action or decision made by Maya, Leo, Mr. Alvarez, or the neighbors. Circle the setting detail or event that influenced it, then draw a line between the two.

Water for the Garden

1 On the hottest Saturday of July, Maya climbed the stairs to her apartment building's roof with a dented watering can. The rooftop garden, usually bright with basil and tomatoes, drooped beneath the city heat. Mr. Alvarez, the building manager, had locked the outdoor faucet after a pipe leaked overnight. Maya's little brother, Leo, wanted to pick the few red tomatoes for lunch. Maya looked at the dry soil and remembered the garden's rule: Everyone shared its food after helping care for it.

2 Maya carried the can to apartment 4B, where Mrs. Chen saved rinse water from washing vegetables. Mrs. Chen offered two buckets, but Leo complained that the water looked cloudy. Maya explained that it was safe for plants, not for drinking. Hearing this, Leo set aside his lunch plan and knocked on doors with Maya. Neighbors brought leftover water from pet bowls and melted ice from coolers. On the hot roof, each small container seemed useless alone, yet together they darkened the soil around every plant.

3 Near sunset, Mr. Alvarez came upstairs to inspect the garden. He saw the wet soil, the empty containers, and Leo tying a sign to the gate: “Take what you need. Bring water when you can.” Mr. Alvarez unlocked the faucet and promised to repair the pipe by Monday. Because the neighbors had worked together, he also changed the rule. Families could choose tomatoes that evening, as long as they left some for others. Leo handed Maya the first tomato instead of keeping it.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the hot rooftop setting and the locked faucet influence Maya's actions at the beginning of the passage?

2. How does Maya's explanation about Mrs. Chen's water affect Leo? Use two details from the passage.

3. How does the neighbors' water-collecting event affect Mr. Alvarez's decisions?

4. How does the idea of sharing food after caring for the garden shape the ending?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a new scene in 3 or 4 sentences set in a shared place. Include a setting detail or event, two people who respond to it, and a shared idea that affects what happens next.

ANSWER KEY

Rooftop Garden Choices

GRADE 6 · 6.RL.3.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each action or decision made by Maya, Leo, Mr. Alvarez, or the neighbors. Circle the setting detail or event that influenced it, then draw a line between the two. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the hot rooftop setting and the locked faucet influence Maya's actions at the beginning of the passage?	**The heat and lack of faucet water leave the garden dry, so Maya focuses on finding water to care for the plants instead of picking tomatoes.**
2	How does Maya's explanation about Mrs. Chen's water affect Leo? Use two details from the passage.	**Leo learns that the cloudy water is safe for plants. He gives up his plan to eat tomatoes for lunch and helps Maya knock on neighbors' doors for water.**
3	How does the neighbors' water-collecting event affect Mr. Alvarez's decisions?	**When Mr. Alvarez sees that the neighbors have watered the garden together, he unlocks the faucet, promises to repair the pipe, and changes the tomato-picking rule.**
4	How does the idea of sharing food after caring for the garden shape the ending?	**The families may take tomatoes only if they leave some for others, and Leo gives Maya the first tomato instead of keeping it.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

During a windy afternoon at the community park, a gust scattered the flyers for the clean-up day. Nia began chasing the papers, and Omar used his skateboard to block them near the fence. Their quick teamwork helped the group keep the event organized, showing that a shared goal can change how people respond to a problem.

Accept paraphrases that clearly connect a person's action or decision to a setting detail, event, or shared-care idea from the passage. For Part 3, require a logical connection among the setting or event, two individuals' responses, and the shared idea.