Garden Team

Trace how a setting challenge leads characters to act together.

6.RL.3 "Integration of Concepts 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 setting details that create a challenge, circle each character action that responds to it, and number the three major events in order. Use your marks to trace how the setting, people, and events build the story's idea.

The Watering Route

1 On Saturday morning, Maya unlocked the gate to the apartment garden and stopped. The tomato leaves drooped in the July heat, and the rain barrel beside the shed was nearly empty. Her science club planned to sell the tomatoes for new library books, but the plants would not last until the sale. Maya wanted to carry buckets from her apartment, yet the fourth-floor stairwell made each trip slow. She called her neighbor Mr. Ortiz, who was repairing a bicycle nearby.

2 Mr. Ortiz looked at the barrel, then at the dry soil. He said the garden needed more hands, not just more water. Maya rang the doorbells in her building and explained the problem. By noon, three children brought empty milk jugs, and two adults carried water from their kitchens. Mr. Ortiz showed everyone how to pour slowly at the roots. Because the narrow paths filled with people, Maya asked the youngest children to refill jugs at the outdoor faucet instead.

3 At the next club meeting, Maya placed a map of the garden on the table. She and the other members marked a watering route and chose times when each neighbor could help. A week later, the leaves stood up again, although the barrel was still low. The club postponed the sale for two days and invited the helpers to pick the first ripe tomatoes. Maya understood that the hot garden had created a problem, but the crowded paths had helped the building become a team.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the July heat, dry plants, and low rain barrel influence Maya's actions in paragraph 1?

2. How does Mr. Ortiz's idea that the garden needs “more hands” influence the events in paragraph 2?

3. Why does Maya give the youngest children a different job in paragraph 2? Explain how the setting affects her decision.

4. How do paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 work together to develop the idea that a community can solve a problem?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence final scene for a different story. Include a person, a setting challenge, and an event, then explain in the fourth sentence how these parts support an idea such as cooperation or perseverance.

ANSWER KEY

Garden Team

GRADE 6 · 6.RL.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline setting details that create a challenge, circle each character action that responds to it, and number the three major events in order. Use your marks to trace how the setting, people, and events build the story's idea. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the July heat, dry plants, and low rain barrel influence Maya's actions in paragraph 1?	**They make Maya realize the tomatoes need water quickly, so she considers carrying buckets and then asks Mr. Ortiz for help.**
2	How does Mr. Ortiz's idea that the garden needs “more hands” influence the events in paragraph 2?	**Maya asks neighbors for help, and children and adults bring jugs and water to care for the garden together.**
3	Why does Maya give the youngest children a different job in paragraph 2? Explain how the setting affects her decision.	**The narrow paths are crowded with people, so Maya has the youngest children refill jugs at the outdoor faucet instead.**
4	How do paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 work together to develop the idea that a community can solve a problem?	**Paragraph 1 introduces the garden problem, paragraph 2 shows neighbors responding together, and paragraph 3 shows their plan succeeding and building a team.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

During a snowy afternoon, Lena found the school bus stuck beside the icy field. She asked students to gather sand from the maintenance shed while the driver cleared snow from the tires. When the bus moved again, everyone climbed aboard before the road froze harder. The icy setting caused a problem, but Lena's actions and the group's event showed that cooperation can help people move forward.

Accept answers that use accurate details from the passage and clearly explain cause and effect among the setting, characters, and events. For the open task, accept any four-sentence scene that includes all required parts and explains a supported idea in the fourth sentence.