# Water for Roots

Compare a story, poem, and play about a shared need.

**8.RL.3.C** "Compare and contrast texts in different forms or genres (e.g., stories and poems; historical novels and fantasy stories; literary nonfiction and informational) in terms of their approaches to similar themes and topics."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline details that show the dry garden or the search for water. Circle details that show people helping, then number the three forms 1 through 3 and write in the margin how each presents the idea.

### Three Ways to Help

1. Story excerpt, "The Empty Beds": Mara pressed her thumb into the soil beside the bean vines. Dust coated her skin. The community garden's rain barrel was empty, and the hose had been shut off while a broken pipe was repaired. Instead of giving up, Mara visited neighbors with a clipboard. She explained that the garden supplied herbs to the senior center and asked for clean rinse water from washing vegetables. By sunset, three buckets stood beside the gate. Mara saw that small offers, collected patiently, could protect something shared.

2. Poem, "Bucket Line": At the fence, a tomato leaf curls like a paper hand. Nina lifts an empty pail and hears the creek beyond the road. She does not carry water alone. Mr. Cho brings a cart, two children bring jars, and a runner brings news: the library will lend its tank. Soon, boots press a narrow path from faucet to thirsty roots before noon. The garden drinks slowly. Nina smiles, knowing a need can turn strangers into a line of helpers.

3. Play scene, "After the Meeting": [A dry garden bed sits behind the town hall. LEO holds a watering can.] LEO: We cannot fill this from the tap. The water is off again. AYA: Then let us ask the council for the old storage tank. LEO: They may say no. AYA: We can show them the seedlings. [Residents enter carrying containers.] RESIDENT 1: The restaurant saved its unused ice water. RESIDENT 2: We brought rainwater from our barrels. LEO: I thought this problem was mine. AYA: It belongs to all of us, so does the answer.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What shared topic connects all three forms? Support your answer with details from the texts.

2. How does the story approach cooperation differently from the poem? Use one detail from each form.

3. How do the play's dialogue and stage directions help show the shared problem differently than the poem's lines and images?

4. What theme about responding to a need is developed in all three forms? How does each ending support that theme?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose any two forms. Write exactly four sentences comparing how each develops the theme that cooperation can solve a shared problem, using one specific detail from each form and explaining one effect of their different forms.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 8 · 8.RL.3.C

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details that show the dry garden or the search for water. Circle details that show people helping, then number the three forms 1 through 3 and write in the margin how each presents the idea. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | What shared topic connects all three forms? Support your answer with details from the texts. | **All three show a dry garden and people trying to bring it water. Mara collects rinse water, Nina joins a path from a faucet to the roots, and the residents bring saved water.** |
| 2 | How does the story approach cooperation differently from the poem? Use one detail from each form. | **The story uses narration to show Mara taking practical steps, such as visiting neighbors with a clipboard. The poem uses images and a moving "line of helpers" to show people joining the effort.** |
| 3 | How do the play's dialogue and stage directions help show the shared problem differently than the poem's lines and images? | **The play lets readers hear Leo and Aya discuss a plan and see residents enter carrying containers. The poem creates a quieter picture of help through images such as the curled leaf, pail, and path of boots.** |
| 4 | What theme about responding to a need is developed in all three forms? How does each ending support that theme? | **A shared need can be solved through cooperation. The story ends with collected buckets, the poem ends with strangers becoming helpers, and the play ends with Aya saying the problem and answer belong to everyone.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The story uses narration to follow Mara as she gathers rinse water from neighbors, making cooperation feel like a series of practical choices. The play uses dialogue and stage directions, including residents entering with containers, so readers can watch several people join the effort. Both forms show that a shared problem can bring people together. The story emphasizes Mara's growing understanding, while the play emphasizes a public group response.

Accept equivalent statements of the shared topic and theme when they are supported by accurate details. For comparisons, students should identify differences in form and explain how those differences shape the presentation of cooperation or problem solving.