After the Storm

Trace how objects and comparisons deepen a community garden story.

8.RV.1.E "Analyze the construction and meaning of an author's use of symbols, analogy, and figurative language such as simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, and idiom."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline phrases that compare unlike things, give objects human actions, or are not meant literally. Circle two objects that may carry a larger idea, and write a brief note beside each one explaining what it may suggest.

The Garden Gate

1 On Saturday morning, Maya unlocked the gate of the neighborhood garden and found the paths buried under windblown trash. The storm had snapped bean vines and flattened marigolds, but one red rain boot still stood beside the tool shed. It belonged to Mr. Alvarez, who had planted the first beds years ago. Maya set the boot upright near the gate, then called her friends. "This place is not finished," she said. "It is waiting for us."

2 By noon, the group worked in muddy gloves. Shovels bit into the soil, and the wheelbarrow groaned over broken stones. Maya compared their cleanup to repairing a torn quilt, because every cleared path would join the garden back together. When Devin wanted to quit, she pointed to a green shoot pushing through a crushed tomato cage. "That little plant is tougher than a tank," he said. The others laughed, and their tiredness loosened like a tight knot.

3 Near sunset, Mr. Alvarez arrived with a box of seed packets. He did not give a speech. Instead, he placed the box beside the red boot and tied a blue ribbon around the gate. The ribbon fluttered above the cleaned paths like a small flag. Maya understood that the garden was more than a patch of vegetables. It held the neighbors' shared work, their memories, and a reason to return. As they left, Devin said the storm had not had the last word.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What larger idea does the red rain boot most likely suggest? Use details from the passage to explain your answer.

2. How does Maya's comparison of the cleanup to repairing a torn quilt help explain the group's work?

3. The passage says that the wheelbarrow "groaned." What human action is given to the wheelbarrow, and what does it show about the work?

4. What does the blue ribbon likely suggest, and how does Devin's statement that the storm had not had "the last word" support that idea?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a public place recovering from a problem, but do not use a garden. Write exactly three sentences. Include an object that suggests a larger idea and one simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, or idiom. Make the object's larger idea clear through details, not by writing "it symbolizes."

ANSWER KEY

After the Storm

GRADE 8 · 8.RV.1.E

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline phrases that compare unlike things, give objects human actions, or are not meant literally. Circle two objects that may carry a larger idea, and write a brief note beside each one explaining what it may suggest. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What larger idea does the red rain boot most likely suggest? Use details from the passage to explain your answer.	**The boot suggests Mr. Alvarez's earlier care for the garden and the garden's continuing history. Maya sets it upright, and he later returns with seeds.**
2	How does Maya's comparison of the cleanup to repairing a torn quilt help explain the group's work?	**The comparison shows that each cleared path is one part of restoring the whole garden, just as repaired pieces make a quilt whole again.**
3	The passage says that the wheelbarrow "groaned." What human action is given to the wheelbarrow, and what does it show about the work?	**Groaning is a human action. It shows that moving over the broken stones is difficult and makes the cleanup seem heavy and tiring.**
4	What does the blue ribbon likely suggest, and how does Devin's statement that the storm had not had "the last word" support that idea?	**The ribbon likely suggests renewal and the neighbors' commitment to the garden. Devin means the storm will not decide the garden's future because the neighbors are rebuilding it.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

After the power outage, Lena hung a lantern in the library window. Its steady light pulled neighbors from their dark houses, and the silent street seemed to hold its breath. By morning, the lantern shone like a small lighthouse as people arrived with chargers, blankets, and coffee.

Accept reasonable interpretations that connect a symbol or figurative phrase to specific passage details. Students may identify additional valid examples, including "tougher than a tank," "loosened like a tight knot," and "the last word."