

Name: _____

Date: _____

Reading Comprehension: The Rooftop Garden

Grade 5 | Reading an original short story and answering text-based questions

Read the story. Then answer the questions on the next page.

The Rooftop Garden

When Maya's school announced that the flat roof above the library would become a garden, most students laughed. The roof was gray, windy, and covered in pebbles. Nothing, they said, could grow up there.

Maya's class decided to prove them wrong. First, they measured the roof and drew a map on graph paper. They learned that strong winds could dry out soil quickly, so they built low wooden boxes and placed them along the wall where the wind was weakest. Mr. Ortiz, the custodian, helped them carry forty bags of soil up the stairs.

In April, the class planted lettuce, beans, and marigolds. Every morning, two students checked the soil with their fingers. If it felt dry an inch down, they watered it. They kept a chart of how tall the bean plants grew each week.

By June, the gray roof had turned green. The beans had climbed taller than Maya's shoulders, and the cafeteria served a salad made with the class's lettuce. The students who had laughed now asked if they could help next year. Maya smiled and handed them a watering can.

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Circle the best answer. Look back at the story to find proof.

1. Where was the school garden built?

- a) In the parking lot
- b) On the roof above the library
- c) Behind the gym
- d) In a classroom

2. Why did the class build low boxes along the wall?

- a) To keep birds away
- b) Because the wall was sunny
- c) Because the wind was weakest there
- d) To make the roof look nice

3. How did students decide when to water the plants?

- a) They watered every hour
- b) They checked if the soil felt dry an inch down
- c) They waited for rain
- d) Mr. Ortiz told them

4. Which word best describes how the other students felt at the END of the story?

- a) Bored
- b) Angry
- c) Interested
- d) Scared

5. What is the main idea of the passage? Write 1-2 sentences.
