5TH GRADE READING · FICTION

The Garden on the Roof

Name _____ Date _____

Fiction | 219 words | Characters and setting

I read it: ☆ to myself ☆ to a grown-up ☆ to a friend

1 The roof of the Parkview Apartments was nothing but gray gravel, a few broken chairs and a lot of pigeons. Leo had lived in the building his whole life, and he had never once seen anyone go up there except to fix the air conditioner.

2 That changed the day his class planted bean seeds in paper cups. Leo's bean grew so fast that it outgrew its cup in a week. "Where can I plant it?" he asked his mom. Their apartment had no yard, no porch and only one sunny window. Leo looked up at the ceiling and had an idea.

3 It took a month of asking. Leo wrote a letter to the building manager, collected **signatures** from neighbors and promised to clean up every week. Finally, the manager agreed. Mrs. Okafor from the third floor **donated** wooden boxes. Mr. Reyes brought soil in his truck. Even grumpy Mr. Bell, who never said hello, showed up with a tray of tomato **seedlings.**

4 By August, the gray roof had turned green. Beans climbed strings, sunflowers nodded in the breeze, and neighbors who had passed each other in the hallway for years now shared tomatoes and stories. Mr. Bell even laughed sometimes. "Funny," he told Leo one evening, watering his plants. "I had to climb six floors to meet my neighbors."

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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The Garden on the Roof: questions

Name _____ Date _____

I can find answers in the text. Look back at the story to check.

1 Circle the best answer

1. Why did Leo need a place to plant?

(a) his class needed a garden (b) his mom wanted flowers (c) his bean outgrew its cup

2. How did Leo convince the manager?

(a) he wrote a letter (b) he asked his teacher (c) he fixed the roof

3. How did Mr. Bell change?

(a) he became friendlier (b) he moved away (c) he stopped gardening

2 Put the events in order. Write 1, 2, 3, 4.

- [ ] The roof turned green.
- [ ] Leo planted a bean seed in a cup.
- [ ] Neighbors brought boxes and soil.
- [ ] Leo wrote a letter to the manager.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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The Garden on the Roof: words and writing

Name _____ Date _____

1 Match each word to its meaning. Draw a line.

signatures	○	○ gave something to help
donated	○	○ young plants grown from seeds
seedlings	○	○ names written by hand

2 Write your answer in a full sentence.

What did Mr. Bell mean when he said, "I had to climb six floors to meet my neighbors"?

3 Draw your favorite part of the story.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: The Garden on the Roof

1 Circle the best answer

1. c) his bean outgrew its cup
2. a) he wrote a letter
3. a) he became friendlier

2 Order of events

Numbers as printed, top to bottom: 4, 1, 3, 2

1. Leo planted a bean seed in a cup.
2. Leo wrote a letter to the manager.
3. Neighbors brought boxes and soil.
4. The roof turned green.

3 Word meanings

signatures: names written by hand

donated: gave something to help

seedlings: young plants grown from seeds

4 Written answer (sample)

He had lived near his neighbors for years without knowing them. The roof garden finally brought them together.

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