

3rd Grade Reading: The Science Fair - Answer Key

3rd Grade - story elements and inference | 18 minutes

Read the passage:

Priya wanted to win the third-grade science fair. She decided to grow bean plants to see if plants need light. She planted four beans in cups. She put two cups on a sunny windowsill and two cups in a dark closet. Every day she gave all four cups the same amount of water. After two weeks, the plants in the sun were tall and green. The plants in the closet were thin, pale, and droopy. Priya wrote down what she saw and made a poster. On the day of the fair, the judges nodded as she explained her experiment. Priya did not win first place, but a judge told her, 'You thought like a real scientist.' Priya smiled. She already had a new question for next year.

Read the story. Then answer each question in a complete sentence, using evidence from the text.

1. What question did Priya want to answer?

Answer: Whether plants need light to grow.

2. How did she make the test fair?

Answer: She gave all four cups the same amount of water; only the light was different.

3. What happened to the plants in the closet?

Answer: They grew thin, pale, and droopy.

4. What can you tell about Priya from the end of the story?

Answer: She loves learning / is curious - she already had a new question for next year. (Sample answer.)

5. What is the lesson of the story?

Answer: Thinking and working like a scientist matters more than winning. (Sample answer.)

Challenge

6. Why did the judge say Priya 'thought like a real scientist'? Use the text.

Answer: Because she set up a fair test, changed only one thing, recorded what she saw, and asked new questions.