

# Reading Comprehension: The School Garden - Answer Key

4th Grade - passage comprehension and inference | 18 minutes

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## Read the passage:

The fourth graders at Pine Street School had never grown anything before. In March, their teacher, Ms. Reyes, handed each student a paper cup, a spoonful of soil, and three bean seeds. 'Plants need three things,' she said: 'water, light, and patience.' For two weeks, nothing happened. Some students thought their seeds were broken. Then one Monday, Jamal shouted, 'Mine has a green tip!' Soon tiny stems leaned toward the window. The class learned to turn the cups each day so the plants would grow straight instead of sideways. By May, the strongest plants were moved to a garden bed outside. The students took turns watering it all summer, and in the fall they shared the beans they had grown with the whole school.

## Read the passage. Then answer each question in a complete sentence, using details from the text.

1. What three things did Ms. Reyes say plants need?

**Answer: Water, light, and patience.**

2. Why did some students think their seeds were broken?

**Answer: Because for two weeks nothing happened - the seeds had not sprouted yet. (Sample answer.)**

3. Why did the class turn the cups each day?

**Answer: So the plants would grow straight instead of leaning sideways toward the window.**

4. What is the main idea of the passage?

**Answer: With care and patience, the class successfully grew bean plants from seeds. (Sample answer.)**

5. Put these events in order: plants moved outside, seeds handed out, green tip appears.

**Answer: Seeds handed out, green tip appears, plants moved outside.**

## Challenge

6. Why do you think Ms. Reyes listed 'patience' as something plants need? Use the text to explain.

**Answer: Answers will vary; the seeds took two weeks to sprout, so students had to wait without giving up. (Must reference the waiting in the text.)**