

# Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Ask & Answer Questions

Read the short story and answer each question.



## Casey and the City Garden

Casey wasn't sure what to do with her Saturdays. Her mom had signed her up for a youth gardening program downtown. "It's good to learn how to grow something," she said. At first, Casey felt out of place. Everyone seemed to know what they were doing. She accidentally pulled up a carrot instead of a weed and dropped a hose that sprayed water across the sidewalk. But one of the volunteers, Mr. Cruz, showed her how to spot weeds and use a trowel properly. Week by week, Casey got better. She even started leading the watering team. By the end of the season, rows of vegetables and sunflowers lined the fence. Casey smiled at what they had built together. "I guess I did grow something," she said—"me."



## Casey and the Community Booth

The following spring, Casey returned to the garden. This time, she had a new idea. "Let's make a booth at the farmer's market," she said. "We can share veggies and teach people about what we do!" Mr. Cruz agreed, and Casey got to work. She designed signs, organized harvest baskets, and even created a chart to explain composting. But on opening day, it rained hard. Their tent nearly blew away, and only a few people showed up. Casey looked around at the soggy produce and muddy ground. Instead of giving up, she handed out free samples and told the story of the garden to every visitor. "We'll try again next week," she said with a shrug. The next Saturday, the sun came out—and so did a crowd. Their booth was the most visited in the row.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Casey and the City Garden & Casey and the Community Booth**

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**1. What theme is present in both stories?**

- A. Growth takes time and effort.
- B. It's best to work alone.
- C. Gardens always succeed the first time.
- D. Rain always ruins plans.

**2. How are the settings different in the two stories?**

- A. The first story is mostly in a garden, while the second is at a public market.
- B. One takes place in winter and the other in summer.
- C. The first story is at Casey's school.
- D. Both stories happen inside a building.

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**3. Fill in the blank:**

Casey didn't give up when the market booth got rained on—she shared \_\_\_\_\_ and kept trying.

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**4. What new problem does Casey face in the second story, and how is it different from her first challenge?**

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**5. How do the endings of both stories show Casey's growth as a person?**

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# Parent and Teacher Guide

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**Guide Reading Level:** O

**Lexile Level:** 590L-740L

**Grade Level:** 3rd Grade, Middle of the Year

**Genre:** Realistic Fiction / Series

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## Introducing the Text

*"Today we'll read two stories about Casey, a girl who learns how to grow a garden and then shares her knowledge with others. As we read, we'll compare how Casey changes across both stories, what challenges she faces, and how the setting and theme develop in each book."*

**Vocabulary:** volunteer, booth, composting, harvest, soggy

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## Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever returned to do something a second time and done it better?
  2. What do you know about community gardens or farmer's markets?
  3. What kinds of skills do you think you can grow outside of a classroom?
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## During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What is Casey's first challenge in the garden, and how does she overcome it?
  2. How does Casey handle the failure at the farmer's market?
  3. How are the settings in the two stories different?
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## After Reading Discussion Questions

1. What theme do both stories share about hard work or perseverance?
  2. How do the people around Casey help her grow in each story?
  3. What does Casey learn about community by the end of the second story?
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## Activity Idea

Have students create a visual "Growth Map" of Casey's journey across both stories. They will draw or write about the skills and lessons she "plants" in the first story and how those grow or change in the second. The map should include setting, theme, and personal growth elements with visual symbols (e.g., sprouting ideas, branching plans).

