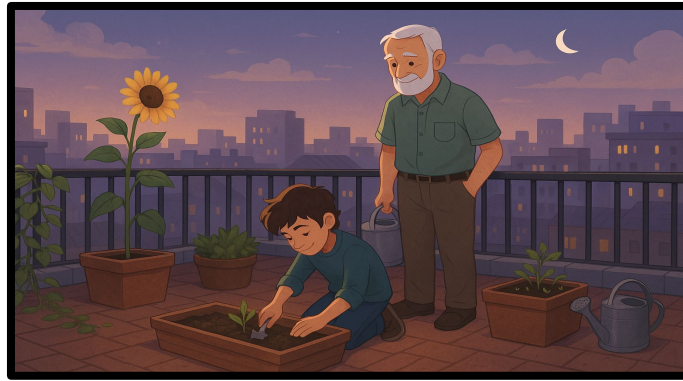


# Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Story Structure

Read the short story and answer each question.



## The Rooftop Garden

### Scene 1: The Invitation

Jules didn't want to visit Grandpa this summer. Ever since Grandma passed away, Grandpa had stopped tending his rooftop garden, and Jules couldn't imagine anything growing up there anymore. When they arrived, Grandpa greeted them with a quiet hug. "Come see the roof tomorrow," he said. "There's work to be done." Jules didn't answer. He stared at the dusty watering can on the balcony, unsure what to say.

### Scene 2: The Climb

The next morning, Grandpa handed Jules a trowel. "The garden doesn't fix itself." They climbed the stairs. Vines drooped over empty pots. A single sunflower bent toward the railing. "Grandma loved this one," Grandpa whispered. Jules looked around, unsure where to start. But then he knelt by a planter, brushed away the dead leaves, and dug. "I can help with this part," he said. Together, they cleared weeds, watered soil, and planted seeds. No one said much, but something about the silence felt full—not empty.

### Scene 3: The Bloom

By the end of the week, tiny green shoots peeked through the soil. Grandpa smiled more. Jules asked questions about roots, watering, and sunlight. On the last night, they stood beside the newly growing garden under the stars. "This looks like Grandma," Jules said quietly. Grandpa nodded. "She always said grief is like a garden. You have to tend it." Jules reached for the watering can without being asked. This time, the silence between them felt like something shared.



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

---

## The Rooftop Garden

---

**1. What does Scene 2 add to the story that wasn't in Scene 1?**

- A. A new character arrives
- B. Grandpa decides to move away
- C. Jules begins helping in the garden, starting the healing process
- D. The garden is destroyed

**2. How does Scene 3 build on the earlier scenes?**

- A. It introduces a new problem for Jules
- B. It shows that their work together helped them begin to heal
- C. Jules decides he doesn't like gardens after all
- D. The sunflower dies again

---

**3. Fill in the blank:**

Jules and Grandpa planted new \_\_\_\_\_ on the rooftop.

---

**4. How does the story's structure (scene by scene) help show how Jules and Grandpa's relationship changes over time?**

---

---

---

---

**5. What do the garden and the sunflower symbolize throughout the story?**

---

---

---



# Parent and Teacher Guide

---

**Guide Reading Level:** P

**Lexile Level:** 645L-795L

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

**Genre:** Realistic Fiction

---

## Introducing the Text

*"This story is told in three scenes that take place over one week. As we read, we'll pay attention to how each part builds on the last and helps us understand the characters' emotions, especially how grief and healing are shown through the garden."*

**Vocabulary:** trowel, vines, planter, grief, tend

---

## Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do gardens sometimes represent in stories?
  2. How do people use quiet or shared tasks to deal with strong emotions?
  3. What do you expect from a story called "The Rooftop Garden"?
- 

## During Reading Discussion Questions

1. Why doesn't Jules want to visit at first?
  2. How do things begin to change during the second scene?
  3. What signs show that Grandpa and Jules are healing together?
- 

## After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How does the garden's growth reflect the growth of their relationship?
  2. What would be missing from the story if one of the scenes was left out?
  3. Why is it important to notice how each part of a story builds meaning?
- 

## Activity Idea

Ask students to create a "**Growth Map**" showing how the story developed. They divide a paper into three panels labeled Scene 1, Scene 2, and Scene 3. In each panel, they draw what was growing (or not growing) and write how the characters were feeling. Then, they reflect on how growth in the garden connects to emotional growth in the story.

