

ELEMENTS OF A STORY

INSTRUCTIONS

Read the story and answer the questions that follow.

Paz and the Sunflower

Every morning on his way to school, Paz passed the museum. He waved to Ms. Sato, who took tickets from visitors. He looked at the lawn in front of the building.

One spring morning, he noticed something interesting as he stood over a dirt patch where the cement sidewalk was broken. A few green leaves peeked up from the ground. It was a new sunflower.

At school that day, he told his teacher, Mr. Brown, about his discovery. "I wonder how that plant got there?" Paz asked.

"Maybe a bird dropped a seed from its mouth, or the wind blew the seed there," Mr. Brown explained. "If a seed finds the right soil and gets enough water, it will grow."

Paz watched the plant grow a little more every day. "It's my little friend," he thought. The spring rains kept the plant strong and healthy.

"You're happy," Paz said to it one afternoon. The plant had grown a lovely yellow flower. It looked like the sun, and the stem was taller than Paz!

Then one day, Paz passed the plant and noticed it seemed sad. Its leaves were droopy. "You don't look so good," Paz said.

Ms. Sato, who was passing by, heard him. "It needs water, Paz," she said. "It's too far from the museum's sprinklers and the rains have stopped." She looked worried as she got in her car and drove away.

That evening at home, Paz thought about the sunflower. At dinner, he told his parents all about it. His father had an idea. "Why don't you water it, Paz?" he asked. "You pass by it every day."

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Paz thought about this. His father was right! He would look in his parents' gardening book after dinner and find out exactly how much water it would need, and he would make sure he gave that exact amount to the plant.

"You'll be fine, my friend," Paz whispered to himself. Then, he took a sip of his water.

1. When Ms. Sato tells Paz that the sunflower needs water, they are
 - a. at Paz's school
 - b. at Paz's home
 - c. near the library
 - d. in front of the museum

2. At first, the sunflower was strong and healthy because
 - a. the museum's sprinklers watered it every day
 - b. Ms. Sato took care of it
 - c. the spring rains gave it enough water
 - d. Mr. Brown watered it every morning

3. How would you describe Paz?
