Reading comprehension

Use evidence to explain events and infer feelings.

Name: _____ Date: _____

The hidden seed tray

Mina carried the seed tray into the shed when the rain began. She had planted six rows of beans with her grandfather the day before. By morning, the soil near the door was scattered across the floor. One row was empty. Mina frowned at the muddy marks on the shelf. They were too small to be her grandfather's boots.

She moved a sack of compost and found a mouse beside three beans. It froze, then slipped through a gap in the wall. Mina laughed quietly. She swept the soil back into the tray and covered it with a wire frame. Before leaving, she checked that the gap was still clear. The shed could protect the seedlings without trapping its visitor.

1. Why did Mina take the tray into the shed?

2. How many rows had Mina planted?

3. Give one clue that the seed tray had been disturbed.

4. What does froze mean when describing the mouse?

5. How does Mina feel when she finds the mouse? Give evidence.

6. Why does Mina cover the tray with a wire frame?

7. Why does Mina keep the gap clear for any mouse that returns?

8. Summarise what Mina changes to solve the problem.

Answers: Reading comprehension

Try the questions first. Use these notes to check your thinking.

1. **To protect it from the rain.**

   The first sentence says she moved it when the rain began.

2. **Six rows.**

   The passage states six rows of beans.

3. **Small muddy marks, scattered soil or missing beans.**

   Accept one detail from the passage.

4. **It stopped moving.**

   The mouse becomes still before running away.

5. **Amused: she laughs quietly.**

   Accept a feeling supported by what she does.

6. **To stop the mouse taking more beans.**

   The frame protects the seedlings.

7. **So a returning mouse can leave the shed without being trapped.**

   The last sentence shows that Mina wants to protect the seedlings without trapping a visitor.

8. **She puts the soil back and covers the tray while leaving a way out for any returning mouse.**

   Include both protecting the plants and leaving a way out for any returning mouse.

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