Name: Date: Score: / 6

Mrs. Ruiz's Garden: Comprehension

Fiction story · about 145 words

Read the story. Then answer each question. Circle the best answer or write your answer on the lines.

Mrs. Ruiz's Garden

Mrs. Ruiz lived next door to Theo. She was eighty years old and grew the biggest tomatoes on the street. This summer, she hurt her knee and could not bend down to weed her garden. The weeds grew tall, and the tomato plants began to droop.

Theo noticed. He knocked on her door. "Can I help with your garden?" he asked. Mrs. Ruiz's face lit up. Every morning before it got hot, Theo pulled weeds and watered the plants. Mrs. Ruiz sat in a lawn chair and taught him tricks, like pinching off extra leaves so the plant could put its energy into tomatoes.

By August, the plants were heavy with red tomatoes. Mrs. Ruiz gave Theo a basketful to take home. His mom made salsa, and they brought a jar back to share. "A garden grows better with friends," Mrs. Ruiz said.

1. **Main idea:** What is the story mostly about?

   A. a woman sells tomatoes at a market B. a boy plants his own garden
   C. a boy helps his elderly neighbor with her garden D. a family moves away

2. **Inference:** Why couldn't Mrs. Ruiz weed her garden?

   A. It was too rainy. B. She was on vacation. C. She did not like weeding.
   D. She hurt her knee and could not bend down.

3. **Detail:** When did Theo work in the garden?

   A. at night B. every morning before it got hot C. only on weekends D. after dinner

4. **Detail:** What trick did Mrs. Ruiz teach Theo?

   A. planting seeds upside down B. pinching off extra leaves C. watering at noon
   D. using lots of salt

5. **Detail:** What did Theo's mom make?

   A. soup B. pie C. salsa D. bread

6. **Inference:** What did Mrs. Ruiz mean by "A garden grows better with friends"?

ANSWER KEY

Mrs. Ruiz's Garden: Comprehension (answers)

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   Working together and helping each other makes things go better.