

**Read the story "Garden Chores" before answering the following questions.**

### **Garden Chores**

Sunlight streamed into the bedroom window, waking Jana from a deep sleep. Jana's mom tapped on her door. "Time to get up," she said. "It's a perfect day for planting."

Jana groaned. She had almost forgotten that they were going to the neighborhood garden. Everyone who lived on Jana's block was working together to turn the vacant parking lot on the corner into a vegetable garden.

Work had started the weekend before. Jana and her neighbors had spent many hours pulling weeds and preparing the hard soil. Her arms and legs were still sore!

Jana dragged herself out of bed. As she ate breakfast, Jana asked, "Mom, why do I have to help today? I want to stay at home and play."

Jana's mom gave her an impatient look. "If we work together, it will get done faster. Besides," she added, "the people who help get to eat some of the vegetables that we raise."

"It's such a big garden!" said Jana. "We don't need that many vegetables."

"If the garden has extra vegetables," answered Mom, "we will set up a neighborhood stand where customers can come to buy them. It will be a good way to earn money."

After washing their breakfast dishes, Mom and Jana left for the garden. There was already a big crowd gathered. Jana saw her neighbor, Miss Sarah, holding a notebook and waving her arms. She was dividing people into groups and giving each one a task. One group had the task of mixing the compost into the soil and spreading it. Another had to measure and mark the rows.

Jana sat down and tried to hide behind a wheelbarrow, but it was no use. "I see you back there, Jana!" laughed Miss Sarah. "Can you and Adam rake up those leaves and place them in trash bags?"

Adam was a boy who lived down the street from Jana. "I love raking!" he chirped. "This will be easy."

“Maybe. I wish I was at home playing instead.” grumbled Jana. Once she started raking, however, she was surprised to find that Adam was right. They had all the leaves and weeds cleaned up in just a few minutes. It wasn’t so bad after all.

Miss Sarah gave them another job. “Please plant these beans. First, make two rows of small holes and then drop a few seeds in each one.”

Adam and Jana got down on their knees in the soft dirt. “You make one row, and I’ll make another,” said Adam. “We’ll race!”

Jana forgot about the sun on her neck as she made her way down the row. It was fun to make the little holes and sprinkle the seeds. When she reached the end of her row, she looked up and laughed. Adam’s row wobbled and wiggled its way to the end, and his face and shirt were covered with dirt.

He grinned. “I won! I finished my row first!”

“Sure, but you won’t win any prizes for being neat!” Jana laughed.

A cloud passed overhead. Adam scowled. “Are those storm clouds? We aren’t done with the garden.”

“I don’t think so,” said Jana. “See? Here comes the sun.” She hopped up and brushed the dirt from her knees. “Come on, Adam! Let’s see if Miss Sarah has another job for us!”

### **Garden Chores Glossary**

**Streamed:** flowed

**Vacant:** empty

**Sore:** painful or aching

**Groaned:** whined

**Grumbled:** complained

**Sprinkle:** shake

**Wobbled:** trembled or shook

**Grinned:** smiled

Who are the main **characters** in the story?

What is the **setting** of the story?

What is the problem?

**Choose the best answer for the questions that follow.**

1. How was the problem in the story solved?
  - a. Jana sneaked out of the neighborhood garden
  - b. Jana stayed home and played
  - c. Jana had fun working with Adam and was excited to do more chores
  - d. Adam and Jana played all day and did not do any work
  
2. Why is Mom impatient with Jana at the beginning of the story?
  - a. Jana complains about having to help in the garden.
  - b. Jana wants to play while she is eating her breakfast.
  - c. Jana forgot to work in the garden last week.
  - d. Jana doesn't want to wash the dishes.

3. How does Jana feel **after Miss Sarah sees her** behind the wheelbarrow?
- a. tired from pulling weeds
  - b. surprised that she was found
  - c. unhappy to have a job to do
  - d. excited to be working with Adam
4. What is the MAIN message of the story?
- a. It is important to follow your dreams.
  - b. Working together makes a hard job easier.
  - c. Every neighborhood should have a garden.
  - d. Vegetables are an important part of a healthy diet.
5. Adam can best be described as \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. playful
  - a. lazy
  - b. sneaky
  - c. boastful (show off)
6. How does Adam feel when the cloud passes overhead?
- a. sad that he forgot his umbrella
  - b. happy that he can stop working
  - c. surprised that they have not finished yet
  - d. worried that it will rain before they finish

7. What does the word **raise** mean in the following sentence from the story?

*Besides," she added, "the people who help get to eat some of the vegetables that we **raise**."*

- a. eat
- b. grow
- c. buy

8. What does the word **spreading** mean in the following sentence from the story?

*One group had the task of mixing the compost into the soil and **spreading** it.*

- a. digging
- b. scattering
- c. watering

9. Choose **two** character traits to describe Jana. Then give evidence from the story to explain why you gave her these character traits.

Jana is

because

Jana is

because

