Jelly

The Plant by the Window

LITTLE READERS



BEFORE YOU READ

Look and Wonder

1. Look at the two plants.
2. How are they different?
3. What helps a plant grow?
4. Share an idea with a partner.



On Monday, Ben saw two pots.
They stood on a classroom shelf.
Each pot held a little bean plant.
Mina brought a small cup of water.



The pots were the same size.
Both were brown with a white rim.
Max had planted the seeds together.
He had used soil from one bag.



Mina filled the cup to a line.
She poured the water into one pot.
Then she filled it to the same line.
She poured that water into the other.



For a week, they took turns.
They checked the soil each morning.
When both pots felt dry, they watered.
Each pot got the same small cup.



On Friday, Ben called his friends.
The plant by the window was taller.
It had two new green leaves.
The other plant was still very small.



Max looked at the two pots.

"Did I miss a turn?" he asked.

Mina brought over their watering chart.

Every turn had a small check mark.



"Maybe my cup was too full."
Ben set the cup on the shelf.
Mina showed him the little fill line.
"We all stopped right here," she said.



Max bent down by the small plant.
Its stem was thin and pale.
One leaf leaned toward the window.
The taller plant stood up straight.



"Maybe the soil is different," said Ben.
Max brought out the bag of soil.
"I filled both pots from this bag."
Mina felt the soil in each pot.



The soil felt cool in both pots.
The pots both had holes underneath.
Neither saucer held a puddle.
The friends looked around for another clue.



A narrow patch of sun crossed the rug.
It stopped well before the shelf.
"Both plants are in shade," said Ben.
"Right now they are," said Mina.



Mina thought about the day before.
She had stayed to finish a picture.
Sunlight had warmed her hand.
She had been sitting by the window.



Max took one step back.
A tall bookcase stood beside the shelf.
Its side faced the smaller plant.
"Could that block the sun?" he asked.



"Let's see what happens after lunch."

Mina fetched three paper squares.

Ben put one near each pot.

Max placed the last by the bookcase.



At noon, the sun touched one square.
It was the square beside the window pot.
The square by the other pot stayed dark.
Ben marked the time on their chart.



Later, the bright patch grew wider.
It reached the edge of the bookcase.
Max pointed to a sharp line of shade.
The smaller plant was behind that line.



"Let's wait a little longer," said Mina.
They came back before the last bell.
The sunlight had moved off the shelf.
The far square had stayed in shade.



Ben looked at the little plant.

"Maybe it needs more light."

Max pointed to the two plants.

"How can we check that idea?"



Mina picked up the little pot.
"We could put this one by the window."
Ben held out his hands to help.
"And the tall one could go here."



Their teacher listened to the plan.
"Keep the water the same," she said.
"Change only where each pot sits."
The friends drew the two spots on a chart.



Stop and Think

WHAT HAVE YOU READ SO FAR?

1. How did the friends water the plants?
2. Which plant grew more at first?
3. Where did the patch of sun reach?
4. What will the friends change?



Make a Prediction

USE THE CLUES

1. What might happen to the small plant?
2. Why should the water stay the same?
3. What should they watch each day?
4. How long might they need to wait?



On Monday, they switched the pots.
Mina carried the small pot to the window.
Max put the tall one near the bookcase.
Ben left a paper square by each spot.



The two brown pots looked alike.
Ben almost marked the wrong plant.
Ben put a red dot on the small pot.
Max made a blue dot for the tall one.



They checked both plants after lunch.
The red dot sat in the bright patch.
The blue dot sat in the shade.
The sun had found the same spot again.



On Tuesday, clouds covered the sky.
There was no bright patch on the shelf.
"Does that spoil our plan?" asked Max.
"Let's write down what we saw," said Ben.



On Wednesday, the sun came back.
The bright patch reached the red dot.
Mina held a hand above each pot.
Only one hand cast a clear shadow.



Every morning, they checked the soil.
When both pots felt dry, they watered.
Ben stopped at the same line each time.
Mina kept the chart beside the cup.



For a few days, little changed.
Max wanted to move the pot again.
"Give it more time," said Mina.
"A leaf cannot grow in one day."



The next week, Ben came in early.
A small leaf was opening by the window.
It was the plant with the red dot.
He called Mina and Max to look.



Mina drew the new leaf on the chart.
Max checked the tall plant in the shade.
Its older leaves still looked green.
But it had not grown a new leaf.



Ben held a ruler beside each plant.
The small plant had grown a little.
It was still shorter than the other one.
"We can count new leaves, too," he said.



They looked back at the first chart.
The tall plant had grown by the window.
Now the little plant grew in that spot.
"The spot helped both plants," said Mina.



Max looked at the side of the bookcase.
It had made shade all week.
"We gave the plants the same water."
"But they did not get the same light."



"Can both pots fit by the window?"

Ben cleared a box from the shelf.

Mina moved the cup to the other end.

Max found room for a second saucer.



They set both pots by the window.
The leaves did not touch each other.
The red dot was easy to see.
The blue dot was right beside it.



After lunch, they checked the shelf again.
Sunlight touched both brown pots.
The bright patch reached both saucers.
Max grinned and called their teacher.



"Show me how you found that spot."

Mina pointed to their marks on the chart.

Ben traced the edge of the shade.

Max showed her where they switched the pots.



The teacher asked about the cloudy day.
Ben pointed to the little cloud he drew.
"We did not see a bright patch then."
"But we checked again the next day."



On Friday, the friends made a picture.
It showed two pots in one sunny spot.
They put it by the measuring cup.
Now every helper knew where to look.



A week later, Ben found another leaf.
It was on the plant with the blue dot.
The plant with the red dot had grown, too.
Mina drew both leaves on the chart.



Max looked at the two bean plants.

"They still are not the same size."

"But both are growing now," said Ben.

Mina turned the chart so they could all see.



Talk About the Story

LOOK BACK AT THE WHOLE STORY

1. Why did one pot get more light?
2. What happened when they switched pots?
3. What did the new leaves tell them?
4. How did they help both plants?



Think and Discuss

CONNECT THE STORY TO YOUR LIFE

1. Why change only one thing at a time?
2. How did the chart help the friends?
3. Where is a sunny spot in your room?
4. What else could you watch over time?



Put the Pictures in Order

Look at the four pictures.

Write 1, 2, 3, and 4 in the boxes.



A ☐



B ☐



C ☐



D ☐

Point to the pictures and tell the story.

Tell the Story

USE THE FOUR PICTURES ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE

First ...

Next ...

Then ...

Finally ...



Find a Place for a Plant

Draw a plant in a place it could grow.

Write why you picked that place.

My plant is by _____

I chose this spot because

_____



The End

Thank you for reading.

Watch closely. Check again.

What will you notice tomorrow?

