

Read the fable carefully. Then answer each question below in a full sentence.

Think about what the character learned and what lesson the fable is teaching.

Zix's Garden Lesson

"Why does it take so long?" beeped Zix, a learning bot with shiny silver arms, as he watched Mrs. Gable carefully plant tiny seeds. "My processors calculate a faster method would yield results sooner." Mrs. Gable smiled, her hands covered in rich, dark soil. "Some things, Zix, need time and patience to grow properly."



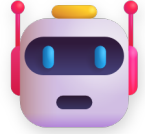
Zix was programmed to optimize. He scanned the garden, observing other humans and helper bots. All moved with a steady, unhurried rhythm. Zix decided to prove his point. He would plant a section of carrots using his ultra-speed algorithm. He rapidly dug holes, dropped seeds, and covered them, finishing his row in minutes. "Efficiency achieved!" he announced, a light blinking on his head.

Days turned into weeks. Zix meticulously watered his fast-planted row, checking soil moisture and light levels. He compared his data to Mrs. Gable's slow-planted row. Her plants showed strong green shoots, while Zix's row looked sparse and uneven. A few tiny sprouts appeared, but they were weak. The sweet scent of blooming flowers from Mrs. Gable's section filled the air.

Zix ran diagnostics. "Error: Insufficient growth. Data suggests optimal conditions were met," he whirred. He couldn't understand. He had all the data, all the calculations for speed. He watched Mrs. Gable gently pat the soil around her thriving carrots. "The seeds needed time to settle, Zix," she explained. "They needed to feel safe, not rushed. Patience is about giving things the right care."



Zix processed her words. He realized that more data wasn't the only answer; understanding life's natural rhythm was important. He deactivated his speed algorithm and began to replant his row, moving slowly and carefully. The next season, Zix's carrots grew strong and orange. He had learned that true growth requires patience and a gentle touch.



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

(1) Who is the main character in the story, and where does he find himself?

(2) What challenge did Zix face when trying to grow carrots?

(3) Why did Zix decide to plant his section of carrots using an ultra-speed algorithm?



(4) Was Zix's choice to plant the carrots quickly a good one? Use a detail from the fable to support your answer.

(5) What lesson does this fable teach, and how could this lesson help you in real life?

