



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

Trace how one person's decision changed things for others, and how those changes led to even more changes. Follow the ripple all the way to the end.

The Empty Lot Bloom



Maria walked past the dusty, empty lot on Elm Street every day. It was full of weeds and trash. One sunny Saturday, she decided to do something small. She brought out a bag of sunflower seeds, a trowel, and a small watering can. She spent the morning clearing a small patch and planting the seeds, hoping for a bit of beauty.

A few weeks later, bright green shoots appeared. Mr. Henderson, who lived next door and rarely left his porch, noticed them. He started sweeping the sidewalk in front of the lot, feeling a little more cheerful watching the plants grow. Soon, a group of neighborhood children, curious about the tall sunflowers, began to help pull weeds around Maria's patch, making it even tidier.

The lot transformed from an eyesore into a small, vibrant spot. People started stopping to admire the flowers. The local City Council, looking for ways to improve community spaces, received several letters from residents praising the "Elm Street Garden." They were surprised by the sudden interest in the neglected lot.

Inspired by the community effort and the positive feedback, the City Council approved funds to turn the entire empty lot into a proper community garden. They added benches and a fence. Maria saw the new signs and the busy workers, smiling to herself, never realizing her handful of sunflower seeds had started it all.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS



(1) Which of these BEST explains why the City Council approved funds for a community garden? Circle the correct answer.

- (A) Maria personally asked them to create a garden.
- (B) Mr. Henderson offered to pay for the entire project.
- (C) Residents praised the garden and showed interest in the improved space.
- (D) The City Council had extra money in their budget they needed to spend.

(2) Complete the sentence: Because Maria planted sunflower seeds, _____, and the lot began to transform.

(3) What was one effect of Mr. Henderson noticing the sunflower shoots?

(4) Describe how Maria planting sunflower seeds led to residents writing letters and then to the City Council approving funds for a community garden.

(5) What might have happened if Maria had NOT decided to plant sunflower seeds? Explain.



