



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 Seed of Kindness



Mrs. Elena Rodriguez had lived in the same apartment building for fifty years. She often looked out at the small, neglected corner of Elm Park, where weeds grew taller than the rusty fence. One sunny Tuesday, instead of just looking, she brought out a small trowel and a packet of marigold seeds. She began to clear a patch, humming softly. Her back ached, but her spirit felt lighter with each weed pulled.

A few days later, a boy named Leo, usually glued to his tablet, noticed Mrs. Rodriguez carefully watering her small, blooming patch. He watched for a long time, then shyly asked if he could help. Mrs. Rodriguez smiled, handed him a small spade, and showed him how to loosen the soil. Soon, Leo was spending every afternoon after school in the park, learning about plants.

Leo's mother, Maria, was surprised by her son's newfound passion. She saw the joy on his face and the vibrant colors of the growing garden. To support them, Maria started bringing extra bottles of water and homemade lemonade. Other parents, seeing the cheerful activity and the blossoming corner, began to stop and chat, some even offering to help plant their own small sections.

Initially, Mr. Henderson, the park supervisor, frowned upon the unauthorized planting. He worried about regulations. However, as the garden grew and more families participated, he saw the park corner transform from an eyesore into a lively, beautiful community hub. The children were learning, neighbors were connecting, and the space was cleaner.



Moved by the positive change, Mr. Henderson presented the idea of official community garden plots to the Town Council. They were impressed by the initiative and the visible benefits. Within months, a new "Green Spaces Initiative" was launched, providing resources for similar gardens across the town. Mrs. Rodriguez, tending her original marigolds, saw new community gardens sprouting up in other parks, never knowing her quiet act had planted the very first seed.

---

**COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS**

---

(1) Which of these BEST explains why Leo first approached Mrs. Rodriguez? Circle the correct answer.

- (A) His mother, Maria, told him to go help her.
- (B) He was bored and had nothing else to do.
- (C) He was curious after watching her care for her blooming patch.
- (D) He wanted to get away from his tablet and play outside.

(2) Complete the sentence: Because Mrs. Rodriguez started planting flowers and vegetables, \_\_\_\_\_ became interested in gardening.

---

(3) What did Maria, Leo's mother, do to support the growing garden?

---

---

---

---

(4)



**Describe how Mrs. Rodriguez's decision to plant marigolds led to Mr. Henderson's involvement and then to the town's "Green Spaces Initiative."**

---

---

---

---

**(5) What might have happened if Mrs. Rodriguez had NOT decided to plant marigolds in the park? Explain.**

---

---

---

---

