

The Sidewalk Garden

Name: _____

Read the passage. Answer the questions in complete sentences.

Nobody planted the flowers between the cracks in the sidewalk. Elena noticed them on the way to school in April — three thin green shoots pushing up where nothing should grow.

She started stepping around them. By May the shoots had leaves. By June there were small yellow flowers, and Elena had told half her class about them.

One morning a city crew came with a machine that scrubs the sidewalks. Elena ran out with a paper cup and a spoon from the kitchen drawer. She dug the plants up, roots and all, and carried them home in the cup.

They live in a pot on her balcony now. They are not rare. Her mother says they are just weeds. Elena waters them anyway.

Fiction • 124 words

1. Where were the flowers growing at the start of the story?

2. Put these in order: the crew arrives, the shoots appear, the flowers bloom.

3. Why did Elena run out with a cup and a spoon?

4. Her mother calls the plants weeds. Why does Elena water them anyway?

The Sidewalk Garden — Answer Key

1. In the cracks in the sidewalk. (*Recall*)
2. The shoots appear, the flowers bloom, the crew arrives. (*Sequence*)
3. She wanted to dig the plants up and save them before the machine scrubbed the sidewalk. (*Cause and effect*)
4. Answers will vary. She cares about them because she watched them grow and saved them, so they matter to her whatever they are called. (*Inference*)