

Reading detectives: prove it

A 10-minute reading task for primary teachers and teaching assistants. Read the short story together, then ask pupils to support each answer with a word or phrase from the text.

The forgotten seedling

On Monday, Mina left a seedling on the classroom windowsill. By Thursday, its leaves drooped and the soil felt dry. She fetched a jug, then paused beside the notice: "One small cup per plant." Mina put the jug down and found a cup. The next morning, she hurried past the coat pegs to check the windowsill.

1. Find it

What two signs suggested that the plant needed attention?

My answer and the words that helped:

2. Work it out

Why might Mina have hurried to the windowsill the next morning?

I think ... because the text says ...

3. Think about the word

What does "drooped" suggest about the leaves? Explain or sketch.

Which other detail helped you decide?

Teacher notes

1: Drooping leaves and dry soil. 2: She may be eager or concerned to see whether the plant has improved; accept a different interpretation supported by the text. 3: Hanging or bending down; the dry soil supports this reading.

Adapt: read aloud and let pupils point or answer orally. Extend: ask what the story does not tell us about the plant the next day.
