

The unfinished path

Fiction | 6 questions

Name: _____ Date: _____

Read once for the main idea. Look back at the passage while answering. Find words that support each answer.

The new path through the community garden ended three metres short of the gate. The volunteers had run out of paving slabs. On the opening morning, a ribbon hung across the entrance, but beyond it lay a strip of muddy soil.

“We could put the pots there,” suggested Alex. “Then nobody would notice.”

Tessa pictured a visitor pushing a wheelchair or a pram. Hiding the gap would not help them cross it. She walked the other route round the garden. It was longer, but its firm surface reached the gate without a break.

They moved the ribbon to that entrance and placed clear arrows beside the unfinished path. Alex wrote a sign explaining that more slabs were needed. Tessa added the date of the next volunteer morning.

During the opening, a visitor stopped to read the sign. He had spare slabs from an old patio and offered to bring them for the group to inspect.

The gap was still there when everyone went home. Tessa had not solved the whole problem, but visitors had been able to use the garden. Alex put away the empty pots. “Next time,” he said, “we’ll finish the path before we cut the ribbon.”

Questions

Choose one answer for each question. You can refer to the passage. The answer notes start on a separate page.

1. Why was the path unfinished?

- A. The gate had been moved overnight
- B. The pots blocked the entrance
- C. The ribbon was too short
- D. The volunteers had run out of paving slabs

2. What did the visitor offer?

- A. A longer ribbon
- B. A set of empty pots
- C. Spare slabs for the group to inspect
- D. A new wheelchair

3. What does “firm” mean when describing the other route?

- A. Certain to be the shortest route
- B. Decorated for the opening
- C. Held shut by a ribbon
- D. Solid enough to travel over

4. Why did Tessa object to hiding the gap with pots?

- A. It would use every pot in the garden
- B. It would make the other route longer
- C. It would prevent the visitor donating slabs
- D. It would conceal the problem without making the route usable

5. Why did they add arrows?

- A. To direct visitors away from the whole garden
- B. To guide visitors towards the usable entrance
- C. To suggest that the unfinished path was ready
- D. To mark where every donated slab should go

6. What does the ending suggest about progress?

- A. Opening a garden matters more than providing access
- B. A longer path must always be removed
- C. A useful temporary solution can help while the main repair remains unfinished
- D. A problem disappears once a sign explains it

Answers and explanations

Try the questions before reading these notes. A practice score is not an exam grade.

1. D. The volunteers had run out of paving slabs

The opening paragraph states that the volunteers had run out of slabs.

2. C. Spare slabs for the group to inspect

He offered slabs from his old patio, subject to the group inspecting them.

3. D. Solid enough to travel over

The firm surface contrasts with the muddy strip and makes the route usable.

4. D. It would conceal the problem without making the route usable

She thinks about people who need a continuous usable surface, which pots cannot provide.

5. B. To guide visitors towards the usable entrance

They move the opening to the firm route and use arrows to help visitors find it.

6. C. A useful temporary solution can help while the main repair remains unfinished

The gap remains, but visitors can use the garden through the alternative entrance.

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