

Greener Than Paint Answer Key

Highlighted / Underlined Moments Showing Jealousy:

- “Maya had always loved art class—until the day her best friend, Zoe, won the school art contest.” → reveals the start of jealousy, when admiration turns to resentment.
- “Maya’s painting had been bright and careful, but Zoe’s swirling blue skies had taken first place.” → shows comparison and disappointment fueling envy.
- “That night, Maya scrolled through Zoe’s art page online, frowning at the flood of comments and likes.” → clear evidence of jealousy, seeing another’s success trigger negative feelings.
- “Without thinking, she muttered, ‘It’s not that good.’” → jealous reaction expressed through minimizing Zoe’s achievement.
- “Maya just nodded, feeling her face warm.” → signals embarrassment and inner conflict about her jealousy.

Highlighted / Underlined Moments Showing Growth and Response:

- “She sighed and began painting again, this time just for fun.” → shows self-reflection and moving past envy.
- “‘You know,’ Maya said, smiling, ‘your painting really is beautiful. I think it pushed me to try harder.’” → marks the turning point, where jealousy transforms into appreciation.
- “That afternoon, Maya realized something she hadn’t before: jealousy steals joy, but gratitude brings it back.” → the moral / life lesson learned by the end.

Life Lesson / Moral (Sample): *True happiness comes from appreciating your own growth rather than comparing yourself to others.*

Reflection Question Guidance:

1. Maya’s turning point happens when she starts painting again and laughs at her mistake, realizing she missed the joy of creating.
2. Her feelings shift from envy to admiration and gratitude toward Zoe.
3. Readers learn that jealousy harms relationships, but encouragement and gratitude heal them.