

Grade 5—English Language Arts  
Sample A

Prompt:

Based on the selection, explain a lesson that can be learned from the actions of Wangari Maathai. Support your answer with important details from the selection.

One lesson in Wangari's story really popped out at me. It meant that it doesn't matter who you are, you could be poor, and uneducated, but if you put your mind to it and have determination you could succeed at anything. Wangari never gave up, when all her seeds died in the garden. She tried, failed, tried again, and succeeded. That's what determination is, trying and trying again until you succeed. When Wangari came home and saw the river dried up and the sacred fig tree was cut down she didn't weep and say "this is no use." She saw the pond/tree and thought of a solution, a gateway to a world of helping people who needed it most, and she did just that. That's the lesson I learned in this story.

Score: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: