

## 2026 MCAS Sample Student Work and Scoring Guide

### Grade 10 English Language Arts

#### Question 9: Essay

#### Reporting Categories: Language and Writing

**Standard:** [L.PK-12.1](#) – Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

**Standard:** [L.PK-12.2](#) – Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

**Standard:** [L.PK-12.3](#) – Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.

**Standard:** [W.PK-12.2](#) – Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

**Standard:** [W.PK-12.4](#) – Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

**Item Description:** Write an essay that analyzes how the changes in a character's emotions are similar to the changes in an object; use evidence from the excerpt to develop the essay.

This item can be found in the released item sets on the [MCAS Resource Center](#).

#### Essay Prompt

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For this question, you will write an essay based on the passage(s). Your writing should:

- Present and develop a central idea/thesis.
- Provide evidence from the passage(s).
- Use correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

Based on “The Rain and the Leaves,” write an essay that analyzes how the changes in Marcovaldo’s emotions are similar to the changes in the plant. Use evidence from the excerpt to develop your essay.

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*Continue to the following page to see the scoring guides for this question. Sample student responses begin on page 4. The annotations that appear above each sample response describe elements of the response that contributed to its score for Idea Development and Standard English Conventions.*

**Scoring Guide for Idea Development**

**Select a score point in the table below to view the sample student response.**

| Score*                     | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>5A</u><br><br><u>5B</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Central idea/thesis is insightful and fully developed</li> <li>• Skillful selection and explanation of evidence and/or details</li> <li>• Skillful and/or subtle organization</li> <li>• Rich expression of ideas</li> <li>• Full awareness of the task and mode</li> </ul> |
| <u>4</u>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Central idea/thesis is clear and well-developed</li> <li>• Effective selection and explanation of evidence and/or details</li> <li>• Effective organization</li> <li>• Clear expression of ideas</li> <li>• Full awareness of the task and mode</li> </ul>                  |
| <u>3</u>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Central idea/thesis is general and moderately developed</li> <li>• Appropriate selection and explanation of evidence/details</li> <li>• Moderate organization</li> <li>• Adequate expression of ideas</li> <li>• Sufficient awareness of the task and mode</li> </ul>       |
| <u>2</u>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Central idea/thesis may be present and is somewhat developed</li> <li>• Limited selection and explanation of evidence and/or details</li> <li>• Limited organization</li> <li>• Basic expression of ideas</li> <li>• Partial awareness of the task and mode</li> </ul>      |
| <u>1</u>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Central idea/thesis is not developed</li> <li>• Insufficient evidence and/or details</li> <li>• Minimal organization</li> <li>• Poor expression of ideas</li> <li>• Minimal awareness of the task and mode</li> </ul>                                                       |
| <u>0</u>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The response shows evidence the student has read the text, but does not address the question or incorrectly responds to the question.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                            |

**Scoring Guide for Standard English Conventions**

**Select a score point in the table below to view the sample student response.**

| Score*                                                                               | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">3A</a><br><a href="#">3B</a><br><a href="#">3C</a><br><a href="#">3D</a> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consistent control of a variety of sentence structures relative to length of essay</li> <li>• Consistent control of grammar, usage, and mechanics relative to complexity and/or length of essay</li> </ul>  |
| <a href="#">2</a>                                                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mostly consistent control of sentence structures relative to length of essay</li> <li>• Mostly consistent control of grammar, usage, and mechanics relative to complexity and/or length of essay</li> </ul> |
| <a href="#">1</a>                                                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Little control and/or no variety in sentence structure and/or</li> <li>• Little control of grammar, usage, and mechanics relative to complexity and/or insufficient length</li> </ul>                       |
| <a href="#">0</a>                                                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sentences are formed incorrectly with no control of grammar, usage, and mechanics and/or insufficient length</li> </ul>                                                                                     |

\*In both Scoring Guides, letters are used to distinguish between sample student responses that earned the same score (e.g., 5A and 5B).

**Idea Development 5A**

The essay presents an insightful analysis of how “Marcovaldo’s emotions become closely tied to the plant,” explaining how his “singular focus” on the success of the plant ultimately leads to his unhappiness. The central idea is fully developed throughout the essay, showing Marcovaldo’s progression from “unsuccessful and tired,” to “increasingly excited as the plant has become healthier,” and finally to “a feeling of fulfillment.” The analysis is rich and perceptive, revealing thoughtful connections between Marcovaldo’s emotions and the growth of the plant: “Marcovaldo’s feelings being so closely interlocked with his plant’s success creates both possibility for happiness and possibility for distress.” Organization is subtle, with skilled transitions, and evidence from the excerpt is skillfully integrated and explained throughout the essay. The essay demonstrates rich expression of ideas and full awareness of the task and mode.

**Standard English Conventions 3A**

The essay maintains consistent control of standard English conventions across a variety of sentence structures: “After Marcovaldo has taken care of the plant for days on end, it has grown too big to fit back inside work, and Marcovaldo knows he must continue to take care of it in order to protect this feeling of fulfillment he draws from the plant.” Minor punctuation and spelling errors do not interfere with clarity. Overall, grammar and mechanics are controlled and appropriate to the essay’s length and complexity.

When a singular focus is held on one object for a period of time, emotions and feelings of success become tied to the success or the failure of the object. Italo Calvino's "The Rain and the Leaves" is an excerpt from *Marcovaldo*, and it details the experience of a man named Marcovaldo as he attempts to raise and nurture a plant at his workplace. Marcovaldo begins by simply watering the plant, but eventually he begins to bring the plant with him everywhere, in a desperate attempt to get the plant rain and air so that it will grow. In "The Rain and the Leaves" by Italo Calvino, Marcovaldo's emotions become closely tied to the plant so that his emotions are similar to and fluctuate alongside the success of the plant, including when he first begins to water it, when he brings it into the rain for the first time, and when the plant becomes too large to travel back to his workplace.

Marcovaldo's emotions first become connected to the plant's success when he begins to water it inside his place of work, knowing that the plant is sickly and dying. Part of Marcovaldo's job is to water the plant, and the state of the plant is described, saying, "the stem of one leaf drooped as if it could no longer support the weight, another leaf was becoming spotted like the cheek of a child with measles, the tip of a third leaf was turning yellow," (paragraph 1). After Marcovaldo does his daily job of watering the plant, the passage reads, "And he sighed, whether for the plant or for himself: because in that lanky, yellowing bush within the company walls he recognized a companion in misfortune." (paragraph 2). Marcovaldo feels as though this sickly, small plant is a representation of himself. He too feels unfulfilled, and unfortunate, without any control. He does not yet know his purpose, and finds that the plant is also being kept from reaching its full potential, just like himself. At this point, the plant is unsuccessful and tired, a direct reflection of how Marcovaldo feels before he begins to take care of the plant.

Once Marcovaldo takes the plant out into the rain for the first time during work and sees how well the plant reacts, Marcovaldo begins to feel this good and success reflected back within himself. When Marcovaldo sees the rain has begun to fall outside of his window, he runs to the plant and takes it out to the courtyard, allowing it to soak up the rain and the fresh air. The passage describes, "They stayed there in the courtyard, man and plant, facing each other, the man almost feeling plant-sensations under the rain, the plant---no longer accustomed to the open air and to the phenomena of nature---amazed, much like a man who finds himself suddenly drenched from head to foot, his clothes soaked." (paragraph 5). Both him and the plant are described in the same way: amazed, in awe at their surroundings. The man feels the same awe the plant does, as he is suddenly soaked by the rain, and the plant feels the same awe the man does, as it is experiencing this abnormality of fresh air and rain. The emotions of the man have become intertwined with the plant, because he has become increasingly excited as the plant has become healthier, showing just how the changes in the plant reflect the changes in Marcovaldo's emotions.

After Marcovaldo has taken care of the plant for days on end, it has grown too big to fit back inside work, and Marcovaldo knows he must continue to take care of it in order to protect this feeling of fulfillment he draws from the plant. When his boss commands him to return the overly large plant back to the nursery, Marcovaldo takes the plant on his bike and begins to ride. Despite this, he explains, "He hadn't the heart to give up the creature, now that he has raised it with such success: nothing in his whole life, it seemed to him, had given him the satisfaction he had received from that plant." (paragraph 37). As the plant continues to grow taller and taller, Marcovaldo's feeling of fulfillment grows with it. He refuses to give up the plant now, after its success has only brought joy to Marcovaldo. He becomes happier as the plant has become healthier, and his inability to give it up shows how he wishes the plant can continue to flourish alongside his happiness.

In Italo Calvino's "The Rain and the Leaves", Marcovaldo's emotions are seen to change alongside the success of the plant he takes care of, as shown when he first takes care of it, when he brings the plant out into the rain, and when the plant becomes so large he is told he must return it to where it came from. Marcovaldo's feelings being so closely interlocked with his plant's success creates both possibility for happiness and possibility for distress. When one's emotions become reliant on the success of a single object, this object's failure can result in the complete collapse of one's happiness. So, Marcovaldo's story serves as a warning: society must protect their emotions by investing their time and energy into multiple outlets.

**Idea Development 5B**

The central idea of the essay is fully developed and supported with analysis connected to skillfully selected evidence. The essay presents an insightful interpretation of Marcovaldo's emotional growth, noting how his connection to the plant mirrors his own transformation: "The reader experiences emotions with him as the plant and he both grow, one literally one figuratively." Purposeful organization shows how Marcovaldo moves from detachment to empathy and finally to desperation as he cares for the plant and is then faced with having it "taken away." The selection of evidence is skillful with thoughtful analysis and subtle transitions, resulting in a rich expression of ideas: "This first introduces the reader to the idea that the plant is a reflection of the man who cares for it." There is full awareness of the task and mode.

**Standard English Conventions 3B**

The essay maintains consistent control of grammar, usage, and mechanics, along with the use of varied sentence structures throughout: "At first, this seems to simply be a chore for him, a responsibility like any other." There are some run-on sentences and awkward phrasing throughout; however, these minor punctuation and wording errors do not interfere with overall clarity. The essay's length and complexity are sufficient to demonstrate consistent control of standard English conventions.

In the story of *The Rain and the Leaves*, a man named Marcovaldo is assigned to take care of a tree. At first, this seems to simply be a chore for him, a responsibility like any other. This changes, however, as the story progresses. The reader experiences emotions with him as the plant and he both grow, one literally one figuratively. The most important thing for a reader to note however, is the importance of this similarity, the growth, change, and inevitable downfall of both Marcovaldo and the tree.

Early in the story Marcovaldo does not seem to be a very motivated individual. The story subtly portrays his life as bland through the use of bland words and phrases, such as "...one of those plants that are so plant shaped, with leaves so leaf-shaped...". This quote might at first seem to be a simple description of a plant, however on closer inspection it is also a description of Marcovaldo. He is a bland man, he seems like anybody else you can find working in the city, he doesn't have any characteristics that stand out, he is simply himself, a normal worker. This first introduces the reader to the idea that the plant is a reflection of the man who cares for it. However, it is also clear that the plant, and by extension Marcovaldo, is not without hope, even as he is cleaning the plants dead leaves, the plant goes on living, showing that it truly does have hope, and so does the main character. They both have much room for growth, and through Marcovaldo's interference, the plant and he grow. At first it is small, clearing away dead leaves and dusting off the live ones, this symbolizes Marcovaldo's new beginning, it shows the reader that he is taking the first step to improvement alongside the plant. Now that he has taken that step, he cares far more for the plant, and himself. Focusing his thoughts on how to improve them both, even if he is only helping himself as a byproduct, the plant is his catalyst.

Near the center of the book is where Marcovaldo reaches his peak. He is happy, his mood is always great and he devotes his entire self to improving the plant. His disposition changes from a drab office worker to an inspired "farmer". This change in attitude is best expressed by the quote, "On rainy nights... they could hear the tic-toc-tuc of the various drips, which made him shudder as if at a premonition of rheumatism. That night, on the contrary... the tic-toc-tuc seemed cherry music to him...". This quote gives the reader a direct contrast between the old Marcovaldo and the new one, the old one pessimistic and the new one optimistic. He grows attached to the plant, he sees it as an extension of himself, a thing he can directly grow and improve to prove to himself that he is capable of change. The plant becomes a thing that he can be proud of. He shows off the plant to his boss, to his family, and each time he is filled with a sense of pride when his work is validated. Making *him* feel validated. His improvement is noticeable, his work is paying off, and this fact is making Marcovaldo feel as if he can truly do better, he feels as if he is the best version of himself. This, however all changes when reality comes crashing through and he is forced to face the facts.

At the end of the story Marcovaldo's boss, in this case "reality" tells him that he must get rid of the plant. This is a struggle that everybody that is improving themselves must face. Marcovaldo's plant was his catalyst, it was the thing that allowed him to change so much so quickly, and now that it is being taken away, he realizes that he never truly changed himself. He grew reliant on the plant, it was what gave him happiness, and now that it is being taken away, he fears for what may come next. This is a story that many people can relate to. When a person tries to improve themselves, a lot of the time there is a catalyst, another person who they rely on to improve, this could be family, a friend, or even, as is the case in this book, a plant. The issue with using a catalyst to improve is that if this catalyst is then taken away, a person can lose hope. They lose their initial source for determination and begin to believe that things are impossible without it. That is exactly what happens in this story. This is best shown by the quote, "...nothing in his whole life... had given him the satisfaction he had received from that plant." The plant had become his whole life, and now it was being taken away and he couldn't do anything about it. This is the tragic truth shown by the story.

Happiness is only possible when someone is willing to be happy, an obvious concept that so often is forgotten. This story is a message, it is meant to warn the reader. Becoming overdependent on something or someone will only end in sadness, and allowing another person or thing to control your mood will only end up in mutually assured destruction.

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**Idea Development 4**

The central idea of the essay is clear and well-developed. The essay effectively explains how Marcovaldo's emotions and circumstances affect the plant's condition, using textual evidence to show how the plant's health mirrors Marcovaldo's emotional state: "...the changes in Marcovaldo's emotions are similar to the changes in the plant because they both go from a low point, to a high point, and then back to a low point." Relevant details are effectively interwoven throughout the essay to support the analysis, such as the plant being a "companion in misfortune" to Marcovaldo at the beginning of the excerpt and the "tic-toc-tuc of the various drips" becoming a source of comfort to him as the plant gains strength. Explanation of evidence is sometimes uneven; some quotations are not fully interpreted, and the final paragraph restates ideas rather than deepening the analysis. Overall, however, the essay shows a thoughtful understanding of the relationship between Marcovaldo and the plant. The organization is effective, and the essay demonstrates a full awareness of the task and mode.

**Standard English Conventions 3C**

The essay demonstrates consistent control of grammar, usage, and mechanics and the use of varied sentence structures: "Marcovaldo gives everything to the plant to make sure it prospers but in the end the plant is in a worse place than it was initially." There are a few minor errors in spelling and punctuation and some awkward phrasing, but these issues do not interfere with meaning. Overall, the essay has sufficient length and complexity to demonstrate consistent control of standard English conventions.

Have you ever had similar experiences to someone else at the same time? In the excerpt "The Rain and the Leaves" from *Marcovaldo* by Italo Calvino the changes in Marcovaldo's emotions are similar to the changes in the plant because they both go from a low point, to a high point, and then back to a low point. Marcovaldo gives everything to the plant to make sure it prospers but in the end the plant is in a worse place than it was initially.

At Marcovaldo's job one of the things he has to do is water a plant that's in the entrance hall. Every morning Marcovaldo discovered: "some nasty sign: the stem of one leaf drooped as if it could no longer support the weight, another leaf was becoming spotted like the cheek of a child with measles, the tip of a third leaf was turning yellow; until, one or the other, plop!, was found on the floor" (Calvino 1). While Marcovaldo is cleaning up the fallen leaves he: "sighed, whether for the plant or himself: because in that lanky, yellowing bush within the company walls he recognized a companion in misfortune" (2). At this time both Marcovaldo and the plant are at a low point in their lives. Marcovaldo is exhausted and sees the plant as a: "companion in misfortune" (2) since the plant also seems to be exhausted.

When Marcovaldo brings the plant home he wakes up from sleeping and notes that the: "tic-toc-tuc of the various drips" (17) from the rain comfort him and seem like: "cheery music" (17). This opposed to how before he had the plant the drips were like: "a premonition of rheumatism" (17). When Marcovaldo wakes up: "the plant now filled half the window, the leaves had at least doubled in number, and no longer drooped under their own weight, but were . . . sharp as swords" (18). Both Marcovaldo and the plant have gotten to a better point in their lives. Marcovaldo is very excited that the plant is growing and during the night thought: "I'll find it has grown!" (17). The exclamation mark at the end of his thought shows his excitement about how the plant is prospering. Similar to Marcovaldo being at a high point in his life the plant has also gotten to a better place. Overnight the plant flourished and grew from the dead stalk it was before.

When Marcovaldo was tasked with bringing the plant back to the nursery he decided that he couldn't give the plant back. While Marcovaldo was driving he continued: "his aimless race" (39) with his plant. The word "aimless" shows that Marcovaldo is back down into a low point in his life. He had given up his own well being so the plant could flourish. When Marcovaldo looked back at the plant: "The tree was gone: there was only a thin stick, from which extended a monstrosity of bare stems, and one last yellow leaf at the top still" (41). Both Marcovaldo and the plant are at a worse place after they were at a good one. Marcovaldo is now extremely drained from putting everything into taking care of the plant. The plant is now only a stalk with a singular leaf instead of a stalk with multiple leaves at the top.

In conclusion, in the excerpt "The Rain and the Leaves" from *Marcovaldo* by Italo Calvino the changes in Marcovaldo's emotions are similar to the changes in the plant because they both go from a low point, to a high point, and then to a lower point. Marcovaldo tried his best to make the plant something great but he sacrificed himself to do so. The plant falling apart at the end symbolizes how Marcovaldo too has fallen apart.

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**Idea Development 3**

The essay identifies in general terms the central idea about Marcovaldo's attachment to the plant and how caring for it gives him purpose: Marcovaldo "becomes attached to the plant and cares for it like no one else. In doing so, he achieves a sense of moral fulfillment in the plant's growth." This demonstrates a moderate understanding of the connection between Marcovaldo's emotions and the changes in the plant, but the explanation is largely literal and relies heavily on restating events rather than interpreting them. Selection of details is appropriate, and organization is moderate, with adequate transitions and logical flow. Overall, the essay demonstrates an adequate expression of ideas and sufficient awareness of the task and mode.

**Standard English Conventions 3D**

The writing is generally clear and controlled, with a few errors that do not impede meaning. Sentence structures are varied and mostly correct, and basic punctuation is used effectively: "When Marcovaldo plants the tree outside and admires it, he finds a new admiration for the things around him." Some minor spelling and punctuation errors are present but do not interfere with understanding. The essay demonstrates consistent control of standard English conventions given its length and complexity.

The excerpt "The Rain and the Leaves," by Italo Calvino paints the image of a plant transforming into a tree, similar to a human growing into an adult. In the story, Marcovaldo, the main character, has the job of caring for a small potted plant. Marcovaldo then becomes attached to the plant and cares for it like no else. In doing so, he achieves a sense of moral fulfillment in the plant's growth. The plant symbolizes a man finding who he is and a sense of passion.

A happy plant, leads to a happy human. In the fourth paragraph of the excerpt, it's stated, "The plant, feeling the water...in its joy it seemed to don its most brilliant green: or at least so Marcovaldo thought, as he lingered to observe it, forgetting to take shelter." Marcovaldo was so absorbed by the plant thriving in the rain, he willingly stood out with it filled with amusement. He had nothing to care for outside of work and this tree gave him something to take care of and love. Marcovaldo's passion toward this plant fuels his sense of curiosity and optimism.

Marcovaldo grew as a person as the plant sprouted into a tree. When Marcovaldo plants the tree outside and admires it, he finds a new admiration for the things around him. "Continuing his aimless race, Marcovaldo didn't notice that, behind him, the intense green of the leaves, one by one, was turning to yellow, a golden yellow." Marcovaldo had cared for the tree so long that he was finally able to look away and see the joy it brought to others. Though in his race he was running he felt a sense of fulfillment as this tree had grown so much and he'd been there to see it. He was able to look away and find his own destiny.

The excerpt shows the contrast between a caretaker and the thing being taken care of. They both begin to rely on each other and eventually find strength in one another. Marcovaldo grew as a person as he watered that tree and watched it bloom. He managed to keep it alive and healthy and in doing so he found something to be passionate about.

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**Idea Development 2**

The essay presents a somewhat developed central idea about Marcovaldo's emotions changing alongside the plant's growth, but the explanation is repetitive and evidence from the excerpt is limited. The essay repeatedly restates that Marcovaldo and the plant grow and depend on each other without adding specific details or analysis: "He feels fulfillment when taking care of the plant. It's the best thing to ever make him happy." This repetition provides a limited explanation of the relationship between Marcovaldo and the plant, and the essay relies on summarizing details from the excerpt rather than further explaining them. Organization is limited, and transitions are basic. The essay demonstrates a basic expression of ideas and partial awareness of task and mode.

**Standard English Conventions 2**

The essay shows partial control of grammar and mechanics. Most sentences are complete, but punctuation and word choice are inconsistent. Repetitive sentence openings and simple structure limit variety and overall complexity: "The plant is almost like him in a way." and "The plant needs him to take care of it in order to keep it alive." Errors are noticeable, though they do not impact meaning. Overall, the essay demonstrates mostly consistent control of standard English conventions relative to length and complexity.

In "The Rain and the Leaves," changes are seen in Marcovaldo's emotions are simliar to the changes in the plant. He feels fullfillment when taking care of the plant. It's the best thing to ever make him happy. It makes him satisfied and gives him something to live for. The plant is almost like him in a way. The plant needs him to take care of it in order to keep it alive. Marcovaldo needs something to fullfill his life just like the plant does. The more he took care of it, the more it grew. The more it grew, the more satisfied he was with it. Him and the plant grew together in a way. He couldn't give up his plant to the nursery to get rid of it. He had this realization when he was going to get rid of it. Unlike others, he had the heart to keep his plant and take care of it, and what do you know? It grew up with him. Marcovaldo's emotions have changed throughout the story and showed how he was at the same place as the plant before he decided to keep it from the nursery. When he made the decision to keep it, something changed in his heart for the better.

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**Idea Development 1**

The response demonstrates minimal understanding of the text. The first sentence restates the prompt and is followed by a lengthy quotation from the text to show a vague connection between Marcovaldo's emotions and the growth of the plant. The central idea is not developed and explanation is brief, though it is on task: "...Marcovaldo's emotions during this part of the story was frightened for the plant and not himself." Organization is minimal, with the response consisting of a single paragraph and little original writing. There is minimal awareness of the task and mode.

**Standard English Conventions 1**

The response shows little control of grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure. The brief paragraph contains errors in spelling ("paragrapgh," "frightended") and awkward phrasing, demonstrating little control of standard English conventions.

In the short story, "The Rain and the Leaves" by Italo Calvino the changes in Marcovaldo's emotions are similar to the changes in the plant. I know this because in paragrapgh 17 it states, "That night, on the contrary, every time Marcovaldo woke from his restless sleep and pricked up his ears, the tic-toc-tuc seemed cheery music to him: it told him the rain was continuing, mild and steady, and was nourishing the plant, driving the sap up along its delicate stalks, unfolding the leaves like sails. Tomorrow, when I look out, I'll find it has grown! he thought." This shows that Marcovaldo is more worried about the plants health instead pf his family and his. Marcovaldo's emotions during this part of the story was frightened for the plant and not himself.

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**Idea Development 0**

The single phrase “The plant need water” indicates the student read at least some of the text but does not address the prompt correctly or demonstrate comprehension of Marcovaldo’s emotions or the connection between him and the plant.

**Standard English Conventions 0**

The response shows no control of grammar, usage, or mechanics. The brief phrase contains errors and provides insufficient evidence to demonstrate any control of standard English conventions.

The plant need water

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