

Dede's Beach Cleanup Plan

AGES 9-10

Read the passage. Use all five lines under each question to explain your thinking.

After a windy night at the beach, Dede and her friends found plastic wrappers and cups near the path above the sand. They wanted to clean the area before families arrived. Dede suggested that they first tell the lifeguard and ask which places were safe to clean. The lifeguard pointed out a broken glass bottle near the water and asked the children to leave it for an adult with protective equipment. The friends collected only the dry litter they could reach safely. Dede brought two bags. She and Nia placed recyclable bottles in one bag, while the other friends collected wrappers and other trash. At first, the group thought the wind had blown all the litter from the parking lot. Then they noticed that some items were caught in sea grass farther from the path. The lifeguard explained that wind and waves can move litter, so it can be hard to know where it began. The friends finished the path and recorded how many items they collected. They also made a small sign reminding visitors to use the bins. Dede knew one cleanup would not prevent all litter from reaching the beach. Still, she felt their work mattered because they had made the area safer and helped visitors notice the problem. Before leaving, the group agreed to tell an adult if they found anything sharp or unsafe next time.

1. Why did Dede speak with the lifeguard before the group began cleaning? Give an example of how the advice kept them safe.

2. What made it difficult to know where all the litter came from?

3. How did the friends divide the cleanup work? Explain why sorting the litter was useful.

4. What does Dede understand about the effect of one cleanup? Use details to describe both its limits and its value.

