

Name: _____

An Experiment in Patience

By Dan Greco



Lara hummed happily as she carefully measured liquids into a beaker. She was convinced her new plant food would make her flowers bloom brighter than ever; she just had to find the right balance of



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first experiment, the petunias looked droopier than before. "No!" she cried, throwing her hands up, and accidentally knocked over a tray of tiny seedlings. Soil scattered everywhere.

Frustration roiled inside her. She tried again, rushing through the steps, her movements jerky. This time, a test tube slipped from her grasp and shattered

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on the floor. "This is taking forever!" she fumed, her face hot. The more upset she became, the more mistakes she made. She slumped onto a stool, fists clenched, shaking.

As she fumed over the mess in front of her, she caught sight of the clock. She realized in a flash, "It's taking way longer because I keep freaking out. Just calm down, Elara. Do it slow and do it right... That's actually the fastest way."



"One step at a time." She cleaned up the broken glass and spilled soil, then meticulously reorganized her workspace.

She started a new experiment, moving with deliberate and careful motions. This time, the petunias still didn't perk up. A wave of disappointment washed over her, but she didn't throw anything. She slowly counted to ten, then calmly wrote down her



observations, noting every detail.

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her. She took breaks, listened to music, and reminded herself to be patient.

Finally, one morning, she walked into her lab and gasped. The petunias in her latest experiment were not just blooming; their petals glowed with an extraordinary, vibrant color she had never seen before. Her persistence, fueled by her newfound self-control, had finally paid off.

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1. What is the purpose of Elara's experiment?

- a. She wanted to make her flowers bloom brighter.
- b. She wanted to make her flowers grow taller.
- c. She wanted to grow a new kind of flower.
- d. She wanted to make healthy soil.

2. How did Elara react when she saw that her petunias looked droopier?



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1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

5. Reread the sentence from the story. Then answer the question.

She cleaned up the broken glass and spilled soil, then meticulously reorganized her workspace.

What is the best definition of meticulously?

- a. doing something quickly
- b. doing something very slowly
- c. showing great attention to detail
- d. acting with a lot of emotion

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An Experiment in Patience

The scrambled words below are vocabulary words from the story. Unscramble each word and write it on the line. Please be sure each word is spelled correctly.



1. _____

t m e i l u c o u l s y

clue: showing great attention to detail

2. _____

m l u s e d p

clue: dropped or slid down suddenly; slouched



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6. _____

m f u d e

clue: showed or felt anger

7. _____

t n i e n d d e

clue: meant to be

8. _____

m m r u u r e d

clue: a low, indistinct sound

9. _____

o r d o p e r i

clue: bent more downward or forward

10. _____

b i v a r t n

clue: full of color; bright and striking

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An Experiment in Patience

In the story, "An Experiment in Patience," Elara was getting very frustrated and upset when her experiment was not working. She used self-regulation strategies, such as taking a deep breath and counting to ten, to help regulate her emotions.

Think of a time when your emotions started to get out of control. What did you do to help regulate your emotions? Describe your experience on the lines below.



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ANSWER KEY

An Experiment in Patience

By Dan Greco

1. What is the purpose of Elara's experiment?



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reorganized her workspace.

What is the best definition of meticulously?

- a. doing something quickly
- b. doing something very slowly
- c. showing great attention to detail**
- d. acting with a lot of emotion

ANSWER KEY

An Experiment in Patience

The scrambled words below are vocabulary words from the story. Unscramble each word and write it on the line. Please be sure each word is spelled correctly.



1. **meticulously** t m e i l u c o u l s y

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10. **vibrant** b i v a r t n

clue: full of color; bright and striking