

## Advanced Short Stories – “Landscaping”

**Directions:** First read the basic version of the story below. Next, read the advanced version of the same story. Then, try to answer the questions about the story.

### Basic Version



“Today we are going to improve the appearance of this area by planting trees, shrubs, and grass. We are also going to move some of the soil. After we are finished, it will look great!” said the man with strong emotion.

The team went to work. They used shovels, rakes, hoes, wheelbarrows, tractors, and a dump truck to change the land. They planted more than two (but not many) cherry trees in the front yard which looked great. They also added some Japanese Maples next to the street which were used to make noise coming from moving cars and trucks less.

It was almost dark by the time they were finished. “Phew!” the man said as he let out his breath. “Good work team. We made a real difference here today.”

The team packed up their gear and headed home. The area looked great, just like the man said it would.

### Advanced Version



“Today we are going to *landscape* this area. After we are finished, it will look great!” said the man with *passion*.

The team went to work. They used shovels, rakes, hoes, wheelbarrows, tractors, and a dump truck to *alter* the land. They planted *several* cherry trees in the front yard which looked great. They also added some Japanese Maples next to the street which were used to *decrease traffic* noise.

It was almost dark by the time they were finished. “Phew!” the man *sighed*. “Good work team. We made a real difference here today.”

The team packed up their gear and headed home. The area looked great, just like the man said it would.

## Questions:

1. What did the team of workers do?
2. What kinds of trees did the team plant?
3. Was the job successful?

## Vocabulary:

**To find word definitions:** First, find the word in the advanced version of the story. Then, compare this part of the advanced version of the story to the same part of the basic version of the story. This will give you a general definition of the word.

1. What does “**landscape**” mean? (*paragraph 1, sentence 1*)
2. What does “**passion**” mean? (*paragraph 1, sentence 2*)
3. What does “**alter**” mean? (*paragraph 2, sentence 2*)
4. What does “**several**” mean? (*paragraph 2, sentence 3*)
5. What does “**decrease**” mean? (*paragraph 2, sentence 4*)
6. What does “**traffic**” mean? (*paragraph 2, sentence 4*)
7. What does “**sighed**” mean? (*paragraph 3, sentence 1*)