A Roof That Helps

Find the main idea and the details that support it.

3.LF.19 "Determine the explicit or implied main idea and supporting details of a text. a. Explain how supporting details contribute to the main idea, using textual evidence. b. Recount or summarize the key ideas from the text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that tells the main idea of the passage, then circle one detail in each of the next two paragraphs that shows why the garden is helpful.

The Library's Roof Garden

1. From the street, the roof of the Oak Street Library looks like a patch of grass. It is actually a small garden growing high above the sidewalk. Workers checked that the roof could hold the weight. Then they added a waterproof layer, light soil, and tough plants. This garden is more than a pretty place. It helps the library and the neighborhood in several ways.

2. On a hot day, sunlight beats down on an ordinary dark roof. The garden plants shade the library roof, and water in their leaves helps cool the air. This can keep the rooms below cooler. Rain also falls on the garden. The soil holds some of that water, so less rain rushes into street drains all at once.

3. Small visitors use the garden, too. Bees stop at its flowers for nectar, and butterflies may visit the blooms. Birds sometimes land there to rest or search for insects. From a nearby window, library staff can watch these living things without leaving the building. A plain roof would not offer the same food and shelter. Above busy streets, the roof has become a helpful green space.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the main idea of the whole passage? State it in your own words.

2. Which two details in paragraph 2 show that the garden helps in hot and rainy weather?

3. How does the detail about bees getting nectar support the main idea?

4. In two sentences, summarize the key ideas of paragraphs 2 and 3.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A new library is thinking about building a roof garden. Write a three-sentence note to its leaders explaining why it is worth building. Use one detail about weather and one about birds from the passage, and explain how each detail supports your reason.

ANSWER KEY

A Roof That Helps

GRADE 3 · 3.LF.19

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that tells the main idea of the passage, then circle one detail in each of the next two paragraphs that shows why the garden is helpful. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the main idea of the whole passage? State it in your own words.	**The library's roof garden helps the building and neighborhood in several ways.**
2	Which two details in paragraph 2 show that the garden helps in hot and rainy weather?	**The plants shade the roof and help cool the air. The soil holds some rain, so less water rushes into street drains at once.**
3	How does the detail about bees getting nectar support the main idea?	**It shows that the garden helps living things by giving them food.**
4	In two sentences, summarize the key ideas of paragraphs 2 and 3.	**The roof garden helps cool the library and holds some rainwater. It also gives animals food or a place to rest.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A roof garden is worth building because it can help the library and nearby living things. Its soil holds some rain, so less water rushes into street drains at once. Birds can rest there or search for insects, so the roof gives them a useful place to visit.

For the marking job, accept the final sentence of paragraph 1 as the main idea and any relevant supporting detail from each later paragraph. Accept summaries and notes that use different wording but accurately connect the details to the garden's benefits.