Scraps Tell a Story

Notice how words connect ideas across a text.

3.LF.21 "Identify and interpret various cohesive devices that link words and sentences to one another within the text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words or phrases that point back to something already named, and circle words that show how two ideas connect.

From Lunch Scraps to Compost

1. At our school, a compost bucket sits beside the lunch bins. Students put apple cores and banana peels inside it. They do not add plastic wrappers because plastic does not break down in a compost pile the way food scraps do. At the end of lunch, Ms. Lee carries the bucket to a compost pile behind the garden. There, she covers the scraps with dry leaves.

2. Tiny living things in the pile begin breaking down the scraps. Worms help by eating bits of food and leaves. Bacteria help, too. The bacteria are too small to see without a microscope. As the worms and bacteria work, the pile slowly changes. The scraps become dark and crumbly instead of looking like pieces of lunch.

3. After several months, Ms. Lee checks the pile. It now holds finished compost, but a few scraps may still need more time. She puts the dark, crumbly compost around the garden plants. This material helps the soil hold water and gives plants nutrients. Soon, the class sees new leaves on its bean plants. Their old lunch scraps have helped the garden grow.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In paragraph 1, what place does “There” point back to?

2. In paragraph 2, how does “too” connect bacteria to worms?

3. In paragraph 3, what does “This material” mean?

4. In paragraph 3, what difference does “but” show?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences about caring for a classroom plant or pet. Use a word that points back to a noun and a linking word that shows a reason or contrast; underline both.

ANSWER KEY

Scraps Tell a Story

GRADE 3 · 3.LF.21

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words or phrases that point back to something already named, and circle words that show how two ideas connect. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, what place does "There" point back to?	**The compost pile behind the garden.**
2	In paragraph 2, how does "too" connect bacteria to worms?	**It shows that bacteria help break down the scraps, just as worms do.**
3	In paragraph 3, what does "This material" mean?	**The dark, crumbly compost.**
4	In paragraph 3, what difference does "but" show?	**The pile holds finished compost, but some scraps still need more time to break down.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Mina put a small plant near the window. She watered it because the soil felt dry. The plant had a bent stem, but its leaves looked healthy.

For the marking job, accept words such as "it," "They," "There," and "This material" when students can identify what they point back to. Accept linking words such as "because," "too," and "but" when students can explain the connection.