Garden Paragraphs

Notice how each paragraph stays on one idea.

3.LF.38 "Compose and develop a well-organized paragraph with a topic sentence, details to support, and a concluding sentence."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the topic sentence and circle the concluding sentence in each paragraph. Mark two details that support each topic sentence with the numbers 1 and 2.

Our Class Garden

1. Our class garden needs water to help its plants grow. We touch the soil first, because it may still be wet after rain. On dry mornings, we fill a watering can at the sink. We use a small can so we can carry it without spilling. We pour near the roots so water can soak into the soil. Careful watering helps our garden plants stay healthy.

2. A layer of leaves can protect the soil in our garden. We spread dry leaves around the plants, but we leave space around each stem. The leaves help keep water in the soil on sunny days. They also make it harder for weeds to grow near our vegetables. As the leaves break down, they add to the soil. These leaves do several jobs that help our garden.

3. Flowers invite helpful visitors to our school garden. We plant purple and yellow flowers near our vegetables. Bees land on the blooms to drink nectar. As bees move from flower to flower, they carry pollen that can help some plants make fruit. Butterflies may visit the flowers, too. By growing flowers, we give these visitors a place to find food.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which sentence tells the main idea of paragraph 1?

2. Name two details from paragraph 2 that show how leaves help the garden.

3. How does the last sentence of paragraph 3 wrap up that paragraph?

4. Why does the sentence about bees drinking nectar belong in paragraph 3 instead of paragraph 1?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one paragraph about how to choose a good spot for a classroom plant. Start with a topic sentence, add two or three details that support it, and end with a concluding sentence.

ANSWER KEY

Garden Paragraphs

GRADE 3 · 3.LF.38

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the topic sentence and circle the concluding sentence in each paragraph. Mark two details that support each topic sentence with the numbers 1 and 2. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which sentence tells the main idea of paragraph 1?	**"Our class garden needs water to help its plants grow."**
2	Name two details from paragraph 2 that show how leaves help the garden.	**Leaves help keep water in the soil and make it harder for weeds to grow.**
3	How does the last sentence of paragraph 3 wrap up that paragraph?	**It returns to the idea that flowers help garden visitors by giving them a place to find food.**
4	Why does the sentence about bees drinking nectar belong in paragraph 3 instead of paragraph 1?	**Paragraph 3 is about flowers and their visitors. Paragraph 1 is about watering plants.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Choosing the right spot helps a classroom plant grow. I put the pot near a window so the plant gets sunlight. I turn the pot each week so each side faces the light. I keep the plant away from cold air by an open door. The right spot gives my plant light and keeps it warm.

Accept accurate paraphrases and any two supporting details from paragraph 2. For the final paragraph, look for a topic sentence, relevant details about the plant's spot, and a concluding sentence that returns to the main idea.