A Smarter Spot

Read for what happens, why it happens, and what the author thinks.

4.LF.22 "Analyze events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in informational texts, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text. a. Cite evidence to explain the author's perspective toward a topic in an informational text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two sentences that show what the author thinks about rain gardens, and circle two facts that support that view. Number the details that show rainwater collecting and then soaking into the ground.

A Garden That Catches Rain

1. After a hard rain, water rushes across the blacktop at some schools. It may carry bits of soil and litter toward a storm drain. A rain garden offers another path. It is a shallow planted area placed where water can flow into it. Instead of racing straight to a drain, some rainwater collects among the plants. I think a rain garden is a smart use of school space.

2. As water rests in the garden, it soaks into the ground. Soil can trap some dirt from the water before it travels farther. Gardeners often choose flowering plants that can handle both wet and dry days. Their roots help the soil stay in place when rain falls. That means a rain garden can slow runoff and help keep some dirt out of nearby waterways.

3. A rain garden does need care. Someone must pull weeds and remove litter so water can enter easily. In a very heavy storm, the garden may fill up, and extra water can still reach the drain. Even so, I would rather see one beside a school walkway than another patch of plain grass. It can make stormwater less of a problem while giving butterflies and other insects a place to visit.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does the author think about using school space for a rain garden? Quote a sentence that shows this view.

2. Why does the author say a rain garden can help keep dirt out of waterways? Use two details from the text.

3. What can happen to extra water in a very heavy storm? How does that detail affect the author's view of rain gardens?

4. Why would the author rather have a rain garden than plain grass beside a school walkway? Use a detail from the text.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a new spot at a school where rainwater might flow. Write a four-sentence note to the principal recommending a rain garden there, explaining what the water would do, and using two facts from the passage to show why the author would support your idea.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two sentences that show what the author thinks about rain gardens, and circle two facts that support that view. Number the details that show rainwater collecting and then soaking into the ground. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does the author think about using school space for a rain garden? Quote a sentence that shows this view.	**The author supports using school space for a rain garden: "I think a rain garden is a smart use of school space."**
2	Why does the author say a rain garden can help keep dirt out of waterways? Use two details from the text.	**Soil can trap some dirt as water soaks into the ground, and plant roots help hold the soil in place.**
3	What can happen to extra water in a very heavy storm? How does that detail affect the author's view of rain gardens?	**Extra water can still reach the drain. The author recognizes that rain gardens have limits but still prefers one to plain grass.**
4	Why would the author rather have a rain garden than plain grass beside a school walkway? Use a detail from the text.	**The author prefers a rain garden because it can make stormwater less of a problem or give butterflies and other insects a place to visit.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Principal, I recommend a rain garden beside the basketball court, where rainwater runs across the pavement. The water could flow into the garden instead of heading straight to a drain. The passage says water in a rain garden soaks into the ground and soil can trap some dirt. These two benefits show why the author would support a garden in that spot.

Accept other accurate text details that support the author's view. For the note, look for a chosen location, an explanation of what rainwater would do there, and two relevant facts from the passage.