Leave the Leaves?

Use text clues to infer why an author takes a stance.

4.LF.24.a "Make text-based inferences to determine possible reasons for an author's stance."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the words that tell what the author wants, then circle four details that help you infer the author's reasons.

One Patch of Leaves

1. Each fall, our school rakes every leaf from the yard. By the next morning, the ground looks neat, but I think we should leave one small patch of leaves under the oak tree. Last week, I lifted a few damp leaves there and saw a pill bug curl into a ball. A spider hurried away, too. That patch may look quiet, but tiny animals use it.

2. Leaves do more than give small animals a place to hide. As leaves break down, they add nutrients to the soil. The oak tree grows in that soil, and its shade keeps part of the playground cooler on hot days. A thick layer of leaves can be slippery on a path, so I would not leave them where people walk. We can rake the paths and keep the patch.

3. Some children say brown leaves make the yard look uncared for. I understand, because I like a tidy place to play. Still, a patch under the tree would not take over the whole yard. Our class could watch it change from fall to spring and record which creatures visit. I would rather have one small, useful patch than a yard with no fallen leaves at all.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why might seeing a pill bug and a spider make the author want to keep a patch of leaves?

2. Why might the author care about the oak tree when deciding what to do with the leaves?

3. Why does the author suggest raking the paths but keeping leaves under the tree?

4. Why might the author want the class to watch the patch from fall to spring?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A classmate says, “Let's put a sign beside the leaf patch.” In two or three sentences, infer why the classmate might want a sign. Use a detail from the passage as evidence and explain how the sign could help.

ANSWER KEY

Leave the Leaves?

GRADE 4 · 4.LF.24.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the words that tell what the author wants, then circle four details that help you infer the author's reasons. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why might seeing a pill bug and a spider make the author want to keep a patch of leaves?	**The author may want to keep a place where small animals can live or hide.**
2	Why might the author care about the oak tree when deciding what to do with the leaves?	**Breaking-down leaves add nutrients to the tree's soil, and the tree shades the playground.**
3	Why does the author suggest raking the paths but keeping leaves under the tree?	**The author likely wants people to walk safely while still keeping a useful leaf patch.**
4	Why might the author want the class to watch the patch from fall to spring?	**The author may think the patch gives students a chance to learn about changes and visiting creatures.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The classmate may want people to know the leaves are there on purpose, because some children think brown leaves make the yard look uncared for. A sign could explain why the school is keeping the patch.

Accept reasonable inferences supported by passage details. For Part 3, the response should explain a purpose for the sign, not just repeat the author's stance on leaves.