Garden With a Purpose

Read how an author supports a plan for a school garden.

5.LF.26.d "Explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support particular points in a text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the point the author makes in each paragraph, then circle one detail that supports each point.

A Rain Garden for Our School

1. A rain garden near a roof downspout could make our school's walkway less wet after a storm. A rain garden is a shallow area filled with soil and plants. When rain runs off a roof, it can collect in puddles on a sidewalk. A rain garden gives that water a place to sink into the ground instead. Students could have fewer wet spots to step around.

2. A rain garden can also help keep nearby streams cleaner. Rainwater that flows across pavement may pick up dirt, oil, and other waste. If that water goes straight into a storm drain, the drain may carry it to a stream. In a rain garden, soil traps some of those materials as water soaks in. That is one way the garden helps protect stream water.

3. The garden would offer more than a way to handle rain. Native flowering plants can provide food for bees and butterflies that live nearby. Students could watch which insects visit the flowers and record what they see. A patch of plants near the school would give classes a living place to study, not just pictures in a book. That makes the garden useful even on sunny days.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the detail about roof runoff support the author's point about the walkway?

2. How do the details about storm drains and soil support the point that a rain garden can help keep streams cleaner?

3. How do the details about flowering plants and insects support the point that the garden could be a place to study?

4. Which point would matter more to a school choosing how to use its outdoor space: cleaner streams or a place to study? Give one supporting detail for each point, then explain your choice.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine your school has room for just one small rain garden. In three or four sentences, recommend a location and a student activity for it, using details from two different paragraphs to explain your choices.

ANSWER KEY

Garden With a Purpose

GRADE 5 · 5.LF.26.d

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the point the author makes in each paragraph, then circle one detail that supports each point. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the detail about roof runoff support the author's point about the walkway?	**Roof runoff can make puddles on the sidewalk. A rain garden gives that water a place to soak into the ground, so the walkway could be less wet.**
2	How do the details about storm drains and soil support the point that a rain garden can help keep streams cleaner?	**A storm drain may carry dirty runoff to a stream. Rain garden soil traps some of the dirt, oil, and other waste as the water soaks in.**
3	How do the details about flowering plants and insects support the point that the garden could be a place to study?	**The flowers can attract bees and butterflies. Students could observe those insects and record what they see.**
4	Which point would matter more to a school choosing how to use its outdoor space: cleaner streams or a place to study? Give one supporting detail for each point, then explain your choice.	**Responses may favor either point. For example, soil traps some waste that might reach a stream, while students can observe insects visiting flowers. A student might choose the place to study because classes could use it even on sunny days.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would put the rain garden near a roof downspout, away from the walkway. Roof water could flow into the garden instead of making a puddle where students walk. Our class could count the kinds of insects that visit its flowers each week. Native flowering plants provide food for bees and butterflies, so the garden would give us insects to study.

Accept either choice in question 4 if the student cites accurate evidence for both points and explains the preference. For Your Turn, look for a location, an activity, and explanations using details from two different paragraphs.