Seeds and Sources

Use MLA-style citations to credit information from a source.

8.RL.26 "Quote, paraphrase, summarize, and present findings, following a recognized citation style and avoiding plagiarism to demonstrate responsible and ethical research practices."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number the paragraphs, underline one sentence you could quote, and circle two facts you could paraphrase so you can credit the author's ideas accurately.

A Seed Library for Everyone, by Nia Reed

1 At a neighborhood seed library, people can take small packets of seeds and bring back seeds after their own plants grow. No money changes hands. The system works best when packets tell the next gardener what is inside. A label might name the plant, the year the seeds were collected, and a short planting tip. That information can help someone choose seeds that fit a sunny balcony or a shady yard. Unlike a store, a seed library depends on neighbors sharing both seeds and what they have learned.

2 Not every plant produces seeds worth returning to a shared box. Gardeners usually wait until seeds have matured on healthy plants. For beans, that often means leaving some pods on the vine until the pods turn brown and feel dry. The gardener can then remove the beans and let them dry further before storing them. Seeds from some hybrid plants may grow into plants unlike their parents, so seed libraries often favor open-pollinated varieties. Sharing accurate labels matters as much as sharing a full packet.

3 Moisture and heat can shorten the time seeds remain able to sprout. Once seeds are fully dry, gardeners can place them in labeled paper envelopes, then keep the envelopes in a cool, dry location. A date on each packet helps future gardeners decide which seeds to plant first. If a seed library welcomes beginners, it can also offer simple instructions for collecting and drying seeds. These steps do not promise that every seed will sprout, but they make a shared collection easier to use and care for.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What makes a seed library different from a store? Copy one complete sentence from paragraph 1 in quotation marks, then add an MLA author citation.

2. In your own words, explain why a seed library might favor open-pollinated plants over some hybrid plants. Add an MLA author citation.

3. Summarize the whole passage in one sentence. Include how the library works and what helps people use its seeds, then add an MLA author citation.

4. A classmate writes, "Keep dry seeds in a dry place (Reed)." Rewrite this paraphrase so it includes both storage conditions from paragraph 3 and keeps an MLA author citation.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence proposal for a school seed shelf. Include one complete sentence quoted from paragraph 3 with an MLA author citation, a paraphrase of the bean example in paragraph 2 with its own citation, and your own specific plan for students to share seeds.

ANSWER KEY

Seeds and Sources

GRADE 8 · 8.RL.26

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Number the paragraphs, underline one sentence you could quote, and circle two facts you could paraphrase so you can credit the author's ideas accurately. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What makes a seed library different from a store? Copy one complete sentence from paragraph 1 in quotation marks, then add an MLA author citation.	**"Unlike a store, a seed library depends on neighbors sharing both seeds and what they have learned" (Reed).**
2	In your own words, explain why a seed library might favor open-pollinated plants over some hybrid plants. Add an MLA author citation.	**Seeds from some hybrid plants might not grow into plants like their parents, so a seed library may prefer open-pollinated varieties (Reed).**
3	Summarize the whole passage in one sentence. Include how the library works and what helps people use its seeds, then add an MLA author citation.	**Seed libraries help neighbors exchange seeds, while careful collection, clear labels, and cool, dry storage make the shared collection useful (Reed).**
4	A classmate writes, "Keep dry seeds in a dry place (Reed)." Rewrite this paraphrase so it includes both storage conditions from paragraph 3 and keeps an MLA author citation.	**After seeds dry completely, gardeners can put them in labeled paper envelopes and store them somewhere cool and dry (Reed).**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should create a seed shelf beside the library checkout desk. Reed writes, "A date on each packet helps future gardeners decide which seeds to plant first" (Reed). Students saving bean seeds could leave pods on healthy vines until the pods turn brown and dry, then dry the beans further (Reed). Each donor should label a packet before placing it on the shelf for other students.

Accept accurate wording that preserves the passage's meaning and uses (Reed) to credit quoted or paraphrased material. For question 4, the revised paraphrase must specify both cool and dry storage.