Picture It, Name It

How images and words shape a plan

SS24.P.12a "Explain the role of mental images and verbal symbols in the thought process."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline descriptions of mental images and circle words or numbers used as verbal symbols. Put a 1 beside the sentence that shows Maya using both to make a decision.

Planning the Book Swap

1. Maya is planning a book swap in the school cafeteria. Before moving a single table, she closes her eyes and pictures the room: doors on one wall, a long lunch counter, and a narrow path between the tables. In her mind, she slides a table away from the doors and imagines students walking through the open space. This mental image lets her test a layout without lifting furniture. It does not show the exact size of every table, so she will still need to check the real room before setting up.

2. Maya also thinks with verbal symbols, including words and numbers that stand for ideas. She writes "Take one book" on a sign and names two sections "Stories" and "Information." The phrase "Take one book" represents a rule, not an object she can see in her imagined cafeteria. The section names help her sort books and tell volunteers where to put them. She silently repeats "doors clear" while planning. Those two words help her remember a safety goal even when she stops picturing the room. Words can carry rules and categories that a picture alone may not make clear.

3. A volunteer suggests putting the Information section beside the entrance. Maya pictures students stopping there and forming a line across the path to the doors. She then recalls the words "doors clear" and decides to move that section beside the lunch counter instead. The image helps her anticipate where people might stand; the words keep the safety goal in mind. Neither kind of thinking guarantees a perfect plan. On setup day, the group can compare the imagined path with the actual space and adjust the tables if the walkway is too narrow.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does Maya's mental image help her plan, and what can it not tell her?

2. How do the names "Stories" and "Information" help Maya think about the books in a way her image of the room does not?

3. What idea does "Take one book" represent, and why might a picture of the cafeteria alone not make that idea clear?

4. Why does Maya move the Information section away from the entrance? Explain the part played by her mental image and by the words "doors clear."

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you are planning a recycling station for a school event. In four to five sentences, describe a mental image you would use, one written label or rule you would use as a verbal symbol, and how both would guide one setup decision.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline descriptions of mental images and circle words or numbers used as verbal symbols. Put a 1 beside the sentence that shows Maya using both to make a decision. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does Maya's mental image help her plan, and what can it not tell her?	**It lets her test where a table could go and imagine people walking through. It cannot tell her the exact size of every table.**
2	How do the names "Stories" and "Information" help Maya think about the books in a way her image of the room does not?	**The names represent categories. They help her sort the books and tell volunteers where to put them.**
3	What idea does "Take one book" represent, and why might a picture of the cafeteria alone not make that idea clear?	**It represents a rule limiting each person to one book. A picture of the room would not clearly state that rule.**
4	Why does Maya move the Information section away from the entrance? Explain the part played by her mental image and by the words "doors clear."	**She imagines a line blocking the path to the doors. The words remind her to keep the doors clear, so she moves the section beside the lunch counter.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I picture a row of bins beside the gym doors and imagine a crowd trying to enter. In my image, a bin placed in front of a door blocks the path. I would post a label that says "Paper only" to tell students what belongs in one bin. I would put the labeled bin along the side wall so the entrance stays clear and students can sort paper correctly.

Accept other accurate descriptions of how an imagined scene helps with spatial planning and how words represent a rule or category. For Part 3, the setup decision must clearly use both the mental image and the verbal symbol.