Garden Voices

Compare how three authors explore one pollinator topic.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.9 "Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB In each text, circle a phrase that reveals how the author presents the topic, and underline one supporting detail. Use your marks to compare the authors' approaches.

Three Views of a Pollinator Garden

1. Text A, from a field guide: A pollinator garden is a small space planted with flowers that provide nectar and pollen for insects. Native plants are especially useful because local bees, butterflies, and other insects have evolved with them. Different flowers bloom at different times, so a garden with several species can offer food from spring into fall. Gardeners can also leave a shallow dish of water with stones, giving insects a place to drink without falling in.

2. Text B, from a student's blog: Last April, I thought my apartment balcony was too tiny to help wildlife. My grandmother gave me three pots, and we planted purple coneflower, golden alexander, and milkweed. By June, I noticed bees visiting almost every morning. Later, a striped monarch caterpillar chewed the milkweed leaves. Seeing it made the balcony feel less like a concrete shelf and more like a busy stop along a travel route. Now I save seeds for next year.

3. Text C, from a park sign: Start a pollinator patch by choosing a sunny spot. Ask an adult or local garden group which native plants grow well in your area. Plant clumps of the same kind of flower, since a group is easier for insects to find than a single bloom. Do not use pesticides near the patch, because these chemicals can harm helpful insects. Leave some dry stems standing through winter. Small insects may use the hollow stems for shelter.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What topic connects all three texts? Give one detail from each text that supports your answer.

2. How does Text A develop its ideas differently from Text B? Use one detail from each text.

3. What problem does Text C try to prevent? How does the author's use of directions help address that problem?

4. What fuller understanding do you gain by reading Text A and Text C together?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence comparison of Text B and Text C. Explain which text would be more useful to someone starting a small pollinator garden, using one specific detail from each text to support your judgment.

ANSWER KEY

Garden Voices

GRADES K-12 · CCRA.R.9

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In each text, circle a phrase that reveals how the author presents the topic, and underline one supporting detail. Use your marks to compare the authors' approaches. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What topic connects all three texts? Give one detail from each text that supports your answer.	**All three texts focus on creating or supporting pollinator habitats. Text A explains flowers, food, and water for insects; Text B describes planting flowers on a balcony and seeing bees and a monarch caterpillar; Text C gives steps for making a pollinator patch.**
2	How does Text A develop its ideas differently from Text B? Use one detail from each text.	**Text A explains the topic with general facts, such as why native plants and different bloom times matter. Text B develops the topic through a personal story, including the writer's balcony planting and observations of bees and a caterpillar.**
3	What problem does Text C try to prevent? How does the author's use of directions help address that problem?	**Text C tries to prevent harm to pollinating and other helpful insects. Its step-by-step directions tell readers to avoid pesticides, plant flowers in clumps, and leave stems for shelter.**
4	What fuller understanding do you gain by reading Text A and Text C together?	**Together, the texts show both why a pollinator garden helps insects and how to create one. Text A explains needs such as nectar, pollen, and water, while Text C gives practical planting and care steps.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Text B helps a reader picture what can happen in a small garden. Its writer describes seeing bees and a monarch caterpillar after planting flowers on a balcony. Text C gives more direct help for starting a garden because it tells the reader to choose a sunny spot and avoid pesticides. For a person who is ready to begin planting, Text C would be more useful because its directions can be followed right away.

For the open task, accept either text as more useful if the student cites a detail from both texts and gives a reasonable explanation.