Plant a Clear Plan

Notice how precise words make a school proposal easy to understand.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.3 "Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle six words or phrases that make the garden plan clear and exact. Underline three action verbs that explain what students would do.

A Pollinator Garden

1. Behind the playground, a sunny strip of grass could become a pollinator garden. Bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds need flowers that provide nectar and pollen. Our class could plant milkweed, purple coneflowers, and asters in this space. These flowering plants would give insects food and shelter while adding color beside the blacktop throughout the school day.

2. First, students would loosen the soil with hand trowels and tuck young plants into small holes. Next, they would spread a thin layer of mulch to hold moisture in the ground. A nearby rain barrel could collect water for dry weeks during hot summer days. This careful plan would help the garden grow without wasting water.

3. During science lessons, students could observe which visitors land on each kind of flower. They could record dates, weather, and insect sightings in a shared notebook. The notes might show that different plants attract different pollinators. By caring for one small plot, our school could create a useful habitat and gather real evidence about living things.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What three kinds of plants does the writer name? Why is this clearer than simply saying “flowers”?

2. In paragraph 2, copy the two action verbs that tell what students do with the soil and plants.

3. Copy the phrase that explains why students would spread mulch.

4. What does the word “shared” tell you about the notebook?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a two-sentence plan for improving one place at school. Use at least three precise words or phrases, including one exact action verb and one specific noun.

ANSWER KEY

Plant a Clear Plan

GRADE 4 · L.4.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle six words or phrases that make the garden plan clear and exact. Underline three action verbs that explain what students would do. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What three kinds of plants does the writer name? Why is this clearer than simply saying "flowers"?	**Milkweed, purple coneflowers, and asters. The names tell exactly which flowers the class could plant.**
2	In paragraph 2, copy the two action verbs that tell what students do with the soil and plants.	**loosen; tuck**
3	Copy the phrase that explains why students would spread mulch.	**to hold moisture in the ground**
4	What does the word "shared" tell you about the notebook?	**It tells that students would use the notebook together.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our class should place a covered recycling bin beside the cafeteria doors. Student teams can sort clean paper, plastic bottles, and aluminum cans each Friday.

Accept any six precise words or phrases and any three accurate action verbs that students mark in the passage. For the writing task, accept two sentences that describe a school improvement and include at least three precise language choices, including an action verb and a specific noun.