Shade Matters

Identify purpose, point of view, and the choices that reveal them.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.6 "Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and explain how it is conveyed in the text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words or phrases that show the author's opinion or purpose. Circle three facts or examples the author uses to support that purpose.

Shade Is Safety

1 On a hot afternoon, a tree-lined street can feel much cooler than a block covered in pavement. Trees shade sidewalks and buildings, and water released from leaves can cool the air. Researchers have found that shaded surfaces may be far cooler than surfaces in direct sun. Yet many neighborhoods have lost mature trees to storms, construction, and disease. Replacing those trees is not only about making streets look pleasant. It is a practical way to make outdoor spaces safer and more comfortable during heat waves.

2 City leaders should treat tree planting as part of public safety planning, not as an extra project for a few volunteers. During extreme heat, shade can help people waiting for buses, walking home, or playing outside. Trees also catch some rainfall, which can slow runoff into streets and storm drains. Of course, young trees need water and care before they provide broad shade. That challenge is a reason to plan carefully, not a reason to give up. A city that protects existing trees and plants new ones invests in its residents.

3 Residents can help by asking where shade is missing most. A bare bus stop, a sunny schoolyard, or a wide parking lot may be a better starting place than a place that already has a full canopy. Community groups can work with city staff to choose suitable species and arrange watering. Planting day matters, but long-term care matters just as much. When people see trees as useful neighborhood equipment, like crosswalks or streetlights, they may be more willing to protect them. Cooler blocks begin with thoughtful choices.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the author's main purpose for writing this text?

2. What point of view does the author express about tree planting? Use one phrase from the passage in your answer.

3. How does the author use the example of people waiting for buses to support the purpose?

4. How does comparing trees to “crosswalks or streetlights” help convey the author's point of view?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence public message that persuades students to use refillable water bottles. Include one concrete detail, one comparison, and a call to action so your purpose is clear.

ANSWER KEY

Shade Matters

GRADE 6 · RI.6.6

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words or phrases that show the author's opinion or purpose. Circle three facts or examples the author uses to support that purpose. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the author's main purpose for writing this text?	**To persuade readers that cities and residents should protect and plant trees because trees make neighborhoods safer and more comfortable.**
2	What point of view does the author express about tree planting? Use one phrase from the passage in your answer.	**The author believes tree planting is important public safety work, not an optional project. The author calls it "part of public safety planning."**
3	How does the author use the example of people waiting for buses to support the purpose?	**It gives a concrete example of how shade can protect people from extreme heat during an everyday activity.**
4	How does comparing trees to "crosswalks or streetlights" help convey the author's point of view?	**The comparison presents trees as useful public equipment that communities should value and protect, not just as decorations.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school can cut down on trash by choosing refillable water bottles. A reusable bottle can be filled many times, while a single-use bottle is often discarded after one drink. Carrying one bottle is a small habit that can keep more waste out of our bins. Bring a refillable bottle this week and use the water fountain.

Accept responses that identify the persuasive purpose and explain how claims, facts, examples, comparisons, or word choice convey it. For the open task, accept any four-sentence message with a clear persuasive purpose, a concrete detail, a comparison, and a call to action.