Reasons Take Root

Read a model opinion and trace the reasons that support it.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1b "Provide reasons that support the opinion."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that states the writer's opinion. Number each different reason that supports the opinion, but do not number a sentence that only repeats an earlier reason.

A Rain Garden for School

(1) Our school should build a small rain garden near the playground. A rain garden is a shallow area planted with flowers and grasses. It collects rainwater that runs off roofs and sidewalks. Instead of making puddles near the swings, the garden would let water soak slowly into the ground. This would keep part of the play area drier after storms.

(2) The garden would also give students a living place to study. In science, classes could watch insects visit blossoms and notice how roots hold soil in place. Students could measure rainfall with a simple gauge. Learning outside would help many children see ideas from books happening in real life, right in the schoolyard each day.

(3) Finally, a rain garden could make the schoolyard more welcoming. Colorful native plants can provide food and shelter for pollinators, such as bees and butterflies. Families and classes could help plant, weed, and care for the space. Building a rain garden would solve a water problem while creating a useful, beautiful place for everyone to enjoy.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which supporting reason would matter to a student who wants a drier playground after rain?

2. Which supporting reason explains why science classes might use the garden?

3. Which supporting reason shows that pollinators could benefit from the garden?

4. Which supporting reason explains how families and classes could be part of the garden?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose one improvement you think your school should make. Write four sentences: one sentence stating your opinion and three sentences giving different reasons that support it.

ANSWER KEY

Reasons Take Root

GRADE 3 · W.3.1b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that states the writer's opinion. Number each different reason that supports the opinion, but do not number a sentence that only repeats an earlier reason. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which supporting reason would matter to a student who wants a drier playground after rain?	**The rain garden would let water soak into the ground and keep part of the play area drier after storms.**
2	Which supporting reason explains why science classes might use the garden?	**Students could watch insects and roots, measure rainfall, and see science ideas in real life.**
3	Which supporting reason shows that pollinators could benefit from the garden?	**Native plants could provide food and shelter for pollinators, such as bees and butterflies.**
4	Which supporting reason explains how families and classes could be part of the garden?	**Families and classes could help plant, weed, and care for the space.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should add a covered bike rack. It would keep bikes dry when it rains. It would keep bikes from blocking the walkway. It could make riding to school easier for more students.

Accept wording that correctly identifies the passage reasons, even if students combine related details. For Part 3, accept any clear school-improvement opinion with three different reasons that support it.