Garden With Reasons

Notice how an opinion connects to reasons and results.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.1c "Link opinion and reasons using words, phrases, and clauses (e.g., consequently, specifically)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each opinion statement. Circle each word, phrase, or clause that links an opinion to a reason, detail, contrast, or result.

A Rain Garden for School

1. Our school should add a small rain garden near the playground. A rain garden is a shallow planted area that catches rainwater from roofs and pavement. It would make the schoolyard more useful because its soil and roots can soak up water. Consequently, fewer puddles would form by the swings after a storm, and students could reach the field more easily.

2. Specifically, the garden could hold native flowers, such as purple coneflowers and black-eyed Susans. These plants provide nectar and pollen for some insects. Since bees and butterflies visit flowers for food, students could observe pollinators during science lessons. The garden should include a sign, too, so visitors can learn why the plants and stones are arranged in different places.

3. Some people may worry that a rain garden would cost too much to build. However, the school could begin with one small section and ask families or local groups to donate plants. This plan is sensible because native plants often need less watering after they are established. Therefore, a rain garden could protect the playground, support pollinators, and teach students outdoors without requiring a large project all at once.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the writer's opinion in paragraph 1? Copy the reason that is linked to it by the word because.

2. What does the word Consequently connect in paragraph 1?

3. In paragraph 2, how does the clause beginning with Since connect a reason to an idea?

4. Paragraph 3 uses However after a cost concern. What plan comes after However, and how does that plan support the writer's opinion?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences about one improvement you want for the school library. State your opinion and link it to two reasons using at least three linking words, phrases, or clauses, including because and therefore.

ANSWER KEY

Garden With Reasons

GRADE 5 · W.5.1c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each opinion statement. Circle each word, phrase, or clause that links an opinion to a reason, detail, contrast, or result. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the writer's opinion in paragraph 1? Copy the reason that is linked to it by the word because.	**Opinion: Our school should add a small rain garden near the playground. Reason: its soil and roots can soak up water.**
2	What does the word Consequently connect in paragraph 1?	**It connects the garden soaking up water to the result that fewer puddles would form.**
3	In paragraph 2, how does the clause beginning with Since connect a reason to an idea?	**It gives the reason that bees and butterflies visit flowers for food, which supports the idea that students could observe pollinators during science lessons.**
4	Paragraph 3 uses However after a cost concern. What plan comes after However, and how does that plan support the writer's opinion?	**The school could start with one small section and seek donated plants. This makes the rain garden more affordable and practical.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The school library should add a quiet reading corner because some students need a calm place to focus. Also, it would help classmates who need a comfortable spot to read, specifically with soft chairs and a small rug. Therefore, more students could spend time reading.

Accept equivalent answers that accurately explain the links in the passage. For Part 3, accept a clear opinion, two connected reasons, and at least three linking words, phrases, or clauses that include because and therefore.