Firefly Light Messages

Use text clues to identify an informational author's purpose.

ELA.2.R.2.3 "Explain an author's purpose in an informational text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details that teach you something about the topic. Put a star beside one detail that helps you decide why the author wrote this text.

Why Fireflies Flash

1. On warm summer nights, fireflies blink above grass and near trees. A firefly makes light in its lower body. Oxygen mixes with special chemicals there. This reaction makes a cool glow, not a hot flame.

2. Different kinds of fireflies flash in different patterns. One kind may blink twice, pause, and blink again. Another kind may make one long flash. These patterns help fireflies find others of the same kind.

3. Fireflies also use flashes to find mates. A flying male flashes, and a female on the ground may answer. Their lights can help them find each other in the dark. The glow is a message, not a tiny flashlight.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

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

2. Write two details that support the author's purpose.

3. Why did the author give facts about fireflies instead of telling a make-believe story?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose one paragraph. Write a new heading for it. Then write two sentences that tell the author's purpose for that paragraph and name one detail that helps the author meet that purpose.

ANSWER KEY

Firefly Light Messages

GRADE 2 · ELA.2.R.2.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three details that teach you something about the topic. Put a star beside one detail that helps you decide why the author wrote this text. 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?	**The author wrote to teach readers how fireflies make light and use flashes.**
2	Write two details that support the author's purpose.	**Answers may include: Oxygen mixes with chemicals to make a cool glow. Different fireflies flash in different patterns. Flash patterns help fireflies find others of the same kind. Fireflies use flashes to find mates.**
3	Why did the author give facts about fireflies instead of telling a make-believe story?	**The author wanted to teach readers real information about fireflies and their flashes.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Flash Patterns The author wrote this paragraph to teach readers that fireflies have different flash patterns. The detail about blinking twice and then pausing helps teach this idea.

Accept purposes such as to teach, inform, or explain, as long as the student connects the purpose to firefly light or flashes. For Part 3, accept a fitting heading and two sentences that name a paragraph purpose and use an accurate detail from that paragraph.