Falcons Above Town

Find the central idea and details that build it.

ELA.3.R.2.2 "Identify the central idea and explain how relevant details support that idea in a text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle words or phrases that tell what city peregrine falcons need or face. Number three details, one from each paragraph, that help you figure out the central idea.

Peregrines in the City

1. Peregrine falcons are birds of prey that can live in busy cities. Long ago, many people saw them mostly near cliffs. Today, some peregrines nest on tall buildings, bridges, and towers. These places are high like cliffs, so the birds can watch the area below. A nest may be a simple scrape in gravel on a ledge.

2. City peregrines hunt birds such as pigeons and starlings. A falcon often waits on a high perch, then dives quickly toward its prey. Peregrines can fly very fast during these dives. Parks, rooftops, and streets can attract many smaller birds. Having food nearby helps parent falcons feed their chicks while they grow in the nest.

3. Life in a city is not always safe for peregrines. Glass windows can be hard for birds to see, and some young falcons may fall from nests. Wildlife workers watch nest sites and help injured birds. Building owners sometimes place nest boxes on ledges. By protecting nesting places and reducing dangers, people can help peregrine falcons raise young in cities.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the central idea of the passage?

2. How does the information about tall buildings, bridges, and towers support the central idea?

3. How does paragraph 2 support the central idea? Use one detail from the paragraph.

4. Paragraph 3 includes dangers and help. Explain how these details add to the central idea.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 6- to 10-word headline that states the central idea. Then write two sentences explaining how one detail from paragraph 1 and one detail from paragraph 3 support your headline.

ANSWER KEY # Falcons Above Town

GRADE 3 · ELA.3.R.2.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle words or phrases that tell what city peregrine falcons need or face. Number three details, one from each paragraph, that help you figure out the central idea. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the central idea of the passage?	**Peregrine falcons can live in cities because cities provide nesting places and food, but the birds also face dangers that people can help reduce.**
2	How does the information about tall buildings, bridges, and towers support the central idea?	**These high places are like cliffs, so they give peregrines places to nest and watch for prey.**
3	How does paragraph 2 support the central idea? Use one detail from the paragraph.	**It shows that cities have food for peregrines, such as pigeons and starlings that parent falcons can feed to their chicks.**
4	Paragraph 3 includes dangers and help. Explain how these details add to the central idea.	**They show that city life can be risky for peregrines, but people can help by protecting nest sites, helping injured birds, and adding nest boxes.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

City Falcons Find Homes, Food, and Help Peregrine falcons can live in cities because they find high places to nest and birds to eat. Tall buildings are like cliffs, and nest boxes help protect places where falcons raise young.

Accept central ideas that explain both how cities help peregrines live and how city dangers can be reduced. For the open task, accept different headlines and supporting details when the student clearly connects each detail to the central idea.