Trees Worth Keeping

Find the details that reveal an author's viewpoint.

ELA.4.R.2.3 "Explain an author's perspective toward a topic in an informational text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words or sentences that show what the author thinks about city trees. Circle two details that support that viewpoint.

City Trees Matter

1. On a hot afternoon, a row of maple trees can make a city block feel cooler. Their leaves shade sidewalks, and their roots help rainwater soak into the ground instead of rushing into storm drains. Trees also provide homes for birds and insects. Because of these benefits, city trees deserve careful protection, not casual removal during construction.

2. Some builders ask to remove mature trees to create wider parking areas or to make room for new pipes. Removal may sometimes be necessary when a tree is diseased or unsafe. Still, cutting down a healthy tree should be a last choice. A young tree can take many years to grow a broad canopy, so replacing one sapling does not quickly restore the shade.

3. Cities can plan streets and buildings around healthy trees. Workers can protect roots by placing fences around them during construction, and residents can water newly planted trees during dry spells. These choices are sensible investments in cooler, safer neighborhoods. When leaders treat trees as valuable parts of a city, they help people now and in the future.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the author's perspective toward healthy city trees?

2. Which sentence most clearly shows that the author believes healthy trees should not be removed easily?

3. How does the information about a young tree's canopy support the author's perspective?

4. Does the author say that removing any tree is always wrong? Explain how the author makes the viewpoint more precise.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Read this new note: "Our town should keep the small wetland near the park. Wetlands soak up extra rainwater and give frogs and birds a place to live. Building a road there would remove these useful spaces." In two sentences, explain the author's perspective and use two details from the note.

ANSWER KEY

Trees Worth Keeping

GRADE 4 · ELA.4.R.2.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words or sentences that show what the author thinks about city trees. Circle two details that support that viewpoint. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the author's perspective toward healthy city trees?	**Healthy city trees are valuable and should be carefully protected.**
2	Which sentence most clearly shows that the author believes healthy trees should not be removed easily?	**"Still, cutting down a healthy tree should be a last choice."**
3	How does the information about a young tree's canopy support the author's perspective?	**It shows that planting one sapling cannot quickly replace the shade of a mature tree.**
4	Does the author say that removing any tree is always wrong? Explain how the author makes the viewpoint more precise.	**No. The author says removal may be necessary if a tree is diseased or unsafe, but healthy trees should be removed only as a last choice.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The author believes the wetland should be protected. The author supports this view by explaining that wetlands soak up extra rainwater and provide homes for frogs and birds.

Accept answers that identify the author as supportive of protecting healthy city trees and use accurate passage evidence. For Part 3, accept a clear viewpoint about protecting the wetland supported by two details from the note.