Milkweed Across Genres

Compare how different genres develop one topic.

ELA.4.R.3 "Reading Across Genres"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that show the shared topic. Circle details in the Story Excerpt and Poem that show a message, and number the events in the Story Excerpt so you can compare how the genres treat the topic.

A Stop for Monarchs

1. Story Excerpt: Maya watched a monarch butterfly rest on the milkweed beside her porch. "You traveled far," she whispered. The next morning, she planted more milkweed seeds with her grandfather. By fall, orange wings fluttered over the new plants. Maya smiled because one small helpful act had made a safer stop for travelers during their migration.

2. Field Guide Entry: Monarch butterflies use milkweed plants in two important ways. Adult butterflies drink nectar from many kinds of flowers. Female monarchs lay eggs only on milkweed, and monarch caterpillars eat its leaves. Each fall, many monarchs east of the Rocky Mountains fly to mountain forests in central Mexico. In spring, later generations travel north and continue the cycle.

3. Poem: Orange wings cross the sky, past a field that once stood bare. A child tends a patch of milkweed, giving travelers food and care. Though the journey is long and windy, new leaves wait beside the road. Small hands can help a living creature carry its amazing load to its faraway winter mountain home in Mexico.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What shared topic appears in all three texts? Use one detail from two different texts to support your answer.

2. How does the Field Guide Entry treat the milkweed topic differently from the Story Excerpt?

3. Compare the pattern of events in the Story Excerpt and the Poem. What happens in both texts, and how is the Story Excerpt more clearly ordered?

4. Compare the Field Guide Entry and the Poem. Which gives a more exact description of the monarchs' fall destination, and what details make it more exact?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence news brief about a child planting milkweed to help monarchs. Include two accurate facts from the passage, then compare your news brief with either the Story Excerpt or the Poem in the last sentence.

ANSWER KEY

Milkweed Across Genres

GRADE 4 · ELA.4.R.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details that show the shared topic. Circle details in the Story Excerpt and Poem that show a message, and number the events in the Story Excerpt so you can compare how the genres treat the topic. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What shared topic appears in all three texts? Use one detail from two different texts to support your answer.	**The texts are about monarch butterflies and milkweed. For example, Maya plants milkweed in the story, and the Field Guide explains that monarch caterpillars eat milkweed leaves.**
2	How does the Field Guide Entry treat the milkweed topic differently from the Story Excerpt?	**The Field Guide gives factual information about how monarchs use milkweed. The Story Excerpt uses a character and events to show Maya helping monarchs.**
3	Compare the pattern of events in the Story Excerpt and the Poem. What happens in both texts, and how is the Story Excerpt more clearly ordered?	**In both texts, a child cares for milkweed to help monarchs. The Story Excerpt clearly moves from Maya seeing a butterfly, to planting seeds, to seeing butterflies later, while the Poem describes the idea with images.**
4	Compare the Field Guide Entry and the Poem. Which gives a more exact description of the monarchs' fall destination, and what details make it more exact?	**The Field Guide Entry is more exact. It says that many monarchs east of the Rocky Mountains fly to mountain forests in central Mexico, while the Poem says only that they go to a winter mountain home in Mexico.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On Saturday, Elena planted milkweed in the community garden. Female monarchs lay their eggs on milkweed, and monarch caterpillars eat its leaves. “I want to help butterflies traveling through the area,” Elena said. Unlike the Poem, this news brief reports facts and a quotation instead of using images to share a message.

Accept answers that accurately compare the shared monarch and milkweed topic, the genres' purposes, themes, or event patterns with passage evidence. For the news brief, accept any accurate facts from the passage and a clear comparison to the treatment of the topic in the story or poem.