Falcons Above City

Read closely, then restate key ideas in your own words.

ELA.7.R.3.2 "Paraphrase content from grade-level texts."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the most important fact in each paragraph. Number up to two supporting details in each paragraph that you would use in a paraphrase.

Peregrines in the City

1. On a spring morning, a peregrine falcon drops from the ledge of a downtown bridge. Its pointed wings fold back as it dives toward a pigeon. Peregrines are among the fastest animals on Earth. During a hunting dive, called a stoop, one may reach more than 200 miles per hour. The bird strikes with its feet and then carries its prey to a safe perch. City buildings can provide the high nesting spots that cliffs offer in the wild.

2. Yet city life creates dangers for these birds. Glass windows can reflect the sky, making them hard for a flying falcon to see. Busy roads and construction can disturb nests. In the past, some pesticides also harmed peregrines by making their eggshells too thin. Conservation groups helped populations recover after certain harmful pesticides were banned or restricted. Today, biologists often place nesting boxes on tall structures and watch the birds from a distance so they do not disturb the young.

3. A nest box is not simply a wooden shelter. It gives falcons a flat, gravel-covered space that resembles a natural cliff ledge. Adults usually lay eggs in early spring, and both parents help keep them warm. After the chicks hatch, the adults bring food to the nest. People watching a nest camera can learn when chicks grow feathers and begin practicing short flights. However, viewers should not approach an active nest. Close visits may cause the adults to leave temporarily, exposing eggs or chicks to weather or predators.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In your own words, paraphrase why a city can be a useful nesting place for peregrine falcons.

2. In your own words, paraphrase the danger that glass windows create for peregrine falcons.

3. In your own words, paraphrase how limiting certain pesticides affected peregrine populations.

4. In your own words, paraphrase how a nest box helps falcons and why people should stay away from an active nest.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 45- to 60-word paraphrase of the full passage. Use your own words to include at least three major ideas about peregrines, city life, and protecting nests.

ANSWER KEY

Falcons Above City

GRADE 7 · ELA.7.R.3.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the most important fact in each paragraph. Number up to two supporting details in each paragraph that you would use in a paraphrase. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In your own words, paraphrase why a city can be a useful nesting place for peregrine falcons.	**Tall city buildings give peregrines high places to nest, much like the cliffs they use in nature.**
2	In your own words, paraphrase the danger that glass windows create for peregrine falcons.	**A window can look like open sky because of its reflection, so a flying falcon may not notice it.**
3	In your own words, paraphrase how limiting certain pesticides affected peregrine populations.	**When harmful pesticides were banned or limited, peregrines could recover because the chemicals had caused weak eggshells.**
4	In your own words, paraphrase how a nest box helps falcons and why people should stay away from an active nest.	**A nest box gives falcons a cliff-like place for eggs, and people should keep their distance so adults do not leave eggs or chicks unprotected.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Peregrine falcons can hunt at very high speeds and may nest on tall city structures. Cities also bring risks, including hard-to-see windows and nest disturbances. Conservation efforts and nest boxes have supported the birds. Adults care for chicks, but people should observe nests from far away to keep the young safe.

Accept accurate restatements that preserve the passage's meaning without copying complete sentences. For Part 3, check for 45 to 60 words and at least three accurate major ideas from across the passage.