

Skyline Hunters

Tracing how paragraph choices build an idea.

10.P.AC.3.c “Apply knowledge of how mode and genre impact how ideas and information are structured and arranged in texts. (I/C)”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one phrase in each paragraph that signals what the paragraph is mainly doing. In the margin, write a brief label for each paragraph's job.

Above the City Streets

- ① At 6:12 on a spring morning, a peregrine falcon leaves the ledge of a downtown office tower. It folds its narrow wings and drops past windows before turning sharply over the street. Below, commuters may not notice the bird, but a volunteer on a nearby roof records its flight. The volunteer is checking a nest box, one of several installed on tall buildings. For peregrines, a tower can resemble a cliff, and the open air above city blocks offers room to hunt fast-flying prey over the city.
- ② City nesting does not make life easy, yet it can help peregrines in specific ways. Tall structures provide high nest sites, and building ledges often keep ground predators away. Pigeons and starlings, both common in many cities, can supply prey. These conditions can improve a pair's chances of raising young, especially where nest boxes provide a dry, sheltered nesting surface. However, adults may collide with glass, and chicks can be disturbed by construction. Wildlife groups therefore monitor nests and sometimes move a fallen chick to safety.
- ③ The falcons' presence changes an ordinary skyline into a shared habitat. Online nest cameras let viewers watch parents trade places on eggs or bring food to their chicks, turning one rooftop into a public window on wildlife. Still, the cameras show only part of the story. A successful nest depends on safe ledges, available prey, and people who report injured birds. By following one pair through a season, city residents can see that conservation is not limited to distant forests. It also involves choices made around the buildings where people live and work.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

- 1 Which genre best fits this passage: a feature article, a lab report, or a breaking-news report? Give two structural details that support your choice.

- 2 What does the opening scene accomplish before the passage gives broader information about peregrines?

- 3 How does paragraph 2 arrange information about city nesting? Describe the order of ideas.

- 4 How does paragraph 3 change the scale of the discussion, and why is that a useful ending for this genre?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose a familiar place where people and wildlife meet. Write a 120 to 150 word, three-paragraph feature article that begins with a specific observed moment, explains at least two conditions that shape the situation, and ends by connecting it to a broader idea.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one phrase in each paragraph that signals what the paragraph is mainly doing. In the margin, write a brief label for each paragraph's job. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which genre best fits this passage: a feature article, a lab report, or a breaking-news report? Give two structural details that support your choice.	A feature article. It opens with a vivid scene, then blends explanatory information with a broader concluding reflection.
2	What does the opening scene accomplish before the passage gives broader information about peregrines?	It places the reader in a specific moment with one falcon, then introduces the volunteer and nest box that lead into information about city nesting.
3	How does paragraph 2 arrange information about city nesting? Describe the order of ideas.	It first explains benefits and conditions that can help peregrines, then contrasts them with dangers and describes how wildlife groups respond.
4	How does paragraph 3 change the scale of the discussion, and why is that a useful ending for this genre?	It moves from one nest and one pair of falcons to the larger idea of urban conservation and human choices. This gives the article a meaningful, reflective ending.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At noon, a monarch butterfly lifts from the purple asters beside a school parking lot. Its orange wings flash above the cars, then it settles on a cluster of flowers. The small garden looks separate from the noisy street, but it is part of the butterfly's long migration route. Milkweed gives monarch caterpillars the only leaves they can eat, while nectar flowers fuel adult butterflies. When gardeners plant both, monarchs can feed and reproduce in the same place. Pesticide spraying or the removal of milkweed, however, can reduce the resources the insects need. Watching one butterfly land makes a large environmental problem visible. A few plants beside a parking lot cannot restore every lost habitat, yet they show how ordinary spaces can support migrating animals. The garden's value comes from connections, not from its size.

Accept responses that identify the passage as a feature article and explain its movement from a concrete scene to explanation and broader significance. For the open task, accept varied topics if the three paragraphs follow the required arrangement and use accurate, relevant details.