Plant a Point

Find the opinion, reasons, and evidence in a model text.

3.T.T.3.a "Describe and discuss the techniques used to present and design opinion texts, including author's opinion statement, supporting reasons, and evidence. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the author's opinion statement, circle each supporting reason, and number the pieces of evidence that support the reasons.

A Garden for Our School

(1) Our school should plant a small native-flower garden beside the playground. Native flowers are plants that grow naturally in our area. I support this garden because it could give bees and butterflies food. Many pollinators drink nectar from flowers, and some butterflies lay eggs on certain native plants. A garden could help students notice these animals during recess.

(2) First, the garden could save water compared with a lawn patch. After native plants have grown roots, many need less extra watering than plants from wetter places. Their roots can also help hold soil in place when rain falls. This is a useful reason to choose native flowers instead of planting only grass in that space.

(3) Finally, students could use the garden for science learning. A student can watch a bee move from flower to flower and sketch what happens. The garden would give classes a real place to ask questions about seeds, insects, and weather. For these reasons, I believe a native-flower garden is a smart choice for our school.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does the author think the school should do?

2. What are two reasons the author gives for planting the garden?

3. What evidence supports the reason that the garden could save water?

4. How do the words “First” and “Finally” help present the author’s ideas?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly three sentences about one change you think the school should make. In the first sentence, state your opinion. In each of the next two sentences, give a reason and evidence, such as a fact or an observation.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 3 · 3.T.T.3.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the author's opinion statement, circle each supporting reason, and number the pieces of evidence that support the reasons. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does the author think the school should do?	**The school should plant a small native-flower garden beside the playground.**
2	What are two reasons the author gives for planting the garden?	**It could give food to bees and butterflies, save water compared with a lawn patch, and provide a place for science learning. Accept any two.**
3	What evidence supports the reason that the garden could save water?	**After native plants grow roots, many need less extra watering than plants from wetter places.**
4	How do the words "First" and "Finally" help present the author's ideas?	**They show the order of the author's supporting reasons.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should add a covered bike rack. It would keep bikes drier because a roof blocks rain from falling directly on them. It would help riders find their bikes because the bikes would be parked together in one marked place.

Accept a clear opinion about a school change and two relevant reasons. Each reason should include supporting evidence, such as a fact, a detail, or a reasonable observation.