Craft for Readers

Notice how a writer makes directions fit a reader's needs.

4.P.AC.2 "Writing like a Reader: Construct texts with the audience's experience in mind, basing decisions about craft techniques on context and purpose."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two places where the writer gives extra help or explanation to make the directions easy to follow. Circle one word or phrase that makes the project sound interesting.

Bean Window Lab

1. Have you ever wanted to grow a plant on your windowsill? You can begin with a bean seed, a clear cup, and a paper towel. This small project lets you watch roots and shoots appear close up. Ask an adult for help if you need to use a high shelf or move the cup near a sunny window.

2. First, fold a paper towel so it fits inside the cup. Then wet it until it feels damp, not dripping. Place the bean between the towel and the cup wall, where you can see it. Add a little water when the towel starts to feel dry. A bean does not need soil for this first step.

3. Check your cup each morning and draw what you notice in a notebook. At first, you may see only a tiny white root. After several days, a green shoot may push upward. Keep the cup in bright light and be patient. Plants grow slowly, but your daily drawings will show the changes clearly, like a science detective.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Who is the writer most likely trying to help with these directions? Use one detail from the passage to support your answer.

2. What are two details that show the writer thought about readers who might need extra help?

3. How does the phrase “damp, not dripping” make the directions clearer for the reader?

4. Why does the writer use the question “Have you ever wanted to grow a plant” and the phrase “like a science detective”?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence set of directions for a classmate who has never packed a lunch for a field trip. Include one clear step, one detail that prevents a mistake, and one word or phrase that makes the task feel manageable.

ANSWER KEY

Craft for Readers

GRADE 4 · 4.P.AC.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two places where the writer gives extra help or explanation to make the directions easy to follow. Circle one word or phrase that makes the project sound interesting. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Who is the writer most likely trying to help with these directions? Use one detail from the passage to support your answer.	**The writer is helping children or students who are new to growing a bean plant. The passage explains simple materials and says to ask an adult for help with a high shelf.**
2	What are two details that show the writer thought about readers who might need extra help?	**The writer explains that the towel should be "damp, not dripping" and tells readers to add water when the towel feels dry. The writer also suggests asking an adult for help with a high shelf.**
3	How does the phrase "damp, not dripping" make the directions clearer for the reader?	**It gives a precise description of how wet the towel should be, so the reader does not add too much water.**
4	Why does the writer use the question "Have you ever wanted to grow a plant" and the phrase "like a science detective"?	**These choices invite the reader into the activity and make the project sound interesting and exciting.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Put your sandwich and snack in a small bag before you pack your backpack. Close your water bottle tightly so it will not leak on your food. Check your list one time, and you will be ready to go.

Accept answers that identify a beginning child or student as the likely audience and support the idea with passage details. For the writing task, accept three sentences that clearly fit a new lunch-packer, include all three requested craft choices, and give sensible directions.