

Seeds in Order

Notice how paragraphs and transitions guide an explanation.

4.T.SS.1 "Organization: Demonstrate and apply understanding of organizational structures and elements to create coherent and engaging texts."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that gives the main focus of each paragraph. Circle words that show an order or a connection between ideas so you can see how the writer organizes the explanation.

The School Seed Library

- ① At Maple Street School, a seed library lets families borrow seeds for gardens. The library sits beside the regular book shelves, but its packets hold future plants. In spring, students choose seeds such as beans, lettuce, or marigolds. They take only what they can plant, then write the seed names on a borrowing card. This simple system helps many people try gardening.
- ② First, gardeners prepare a sunny patch of soil and follow the directions on each packet. Next, they plant the seeds at the right depth and give them water. Over the next few weeks, they check the soil and pull weeds. Finally, when plants grow, gardeners can save some seeds from ripe, dry vegetables or flowers. They return those saved seeds to the library for other families.
- ③ Because the seed library is shared, each gardener has an important job. Borrowing seeds gives people a low-cost way to grow food and flowers. Returning saved seeds keeps the collection useful year after year. The library also gives neighbors a reason to share tips about weather, insects, and harvests. By caring for both plants and packets, the school community keeps this small library growing.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Which sentence in paragraph 1 introduces the main topic of the whole text?

2 How is paragraph 2 organized? Use two transition words from the paragraph in your answer.

3 What is the job of paragraph 3 in the text?

4 How does paragraph 1 prepare you for paragraph 2?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a three-paragraph explanation of how your class could run a book swap. Introduce the idea in paragraph 1, give ordered steps in paragraph 2, and end with why the book swap would help, using at least two transition or connection words.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that gives the main focus of each paragraph. Circle words that show an order or a connection between ideas so you can see how the writer organizes the explanation. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which sentence in paragraph 1 introduces the main topic of the whole text?	At Maple Street School, a seed library lets families borrow seeds for gardens.
2	How is paragraph 2 organized? Use two transition words from the paragraph in your answer.	It is organized in time order, using transition words such as First, Next, and Finally.
3	What is the job of paragraph 3 in the text?	It explains why the seed library matters and ends the text with the idea that the school community keeps it growing.
4	How does paragraph 1 prepare you for paragraph 2?	Paragraph 1 explains borrowing seeds, and paragraph 2 explains the steps for planting, caring for, and returning seeds.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A class book swap can help students find stories they want to read. Each student brings one gently used book and writes the title on a list. First, the class sorts books into groups, such as mysteries, animal stories, and nonfiction. Next, students look through the groups and choose one book. Then they cross its title off the list. After the swap, students can talk about the books they chose. By sharing books carefully, the class can make reading choices easier for everyone.

Accept reasonable main-focus sentences if students explain their choices using details from the paragraph. For the writing task, look for three clear paragraphs, logical order, transition or connection words, and an ending that connects to the topic.