Creek Through New Eyes

Track how a narrator's experiences shape a description.

5.T.C.2.a "Describe how a narrator or speaker's perspective influences the text. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words that show how the narrator feels about Willow Creek. Circle details the narrator notices, then use your marks to see how the narrator's point of view shapes the description.

Willow Creek Cleanup

1. Before Saturday, I thought Willow Creek was only a muddy shortcut behind my apartment. I hurried past its brown water and the crumpled cans caught in the reeds. My grandmother, who grew up nearby, called it a living place. I did not understand why she sounded sad whenever she saw a plastic bag twisting on a branch.

2. At the cleanup, Grandma handed me gloves and showed me how to separate bottles from sharp pieces of metal. As we filled bags, a green heron lifted from the bank. I had never noticed one there before. Suddenly, the creek did not seem like a shortcut. It seemed like a home that people had treated carelessly.

3. By noon, the water still looked brown, and our group had not cleaned every bend. Yet I felt proud when we carried twelve full bags to the trash bins. Grandma smiled at the creek, but I think she was smiling at me too. I finally saw why she wanted to protect a place that had always been there.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the narrator's perspective on Willow Creek at the beginning and at the end? Use evidence from the passage.

2. How does the narrator's earlier view of the creek affect the details included in the first paragraph?

3. What cleanup detail does the narrator choose to include in the last paragraph? What does it show about the narrator's perspective?

4. How is Grandma's perspective different from the narrator's perspective at the start of the passage?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence first-person mini-passage about a familiar place from a perspective you choose. Include two details that show what the speaker cares about, and use the last sentence to explain how that perspective shapes the description.

ANSWER KEY

Creek Through New Eyes

GRADE 5 · 5.T.C.2.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words that show how the narrator feels about Willow Creek. Circle details the narrator notices, then use your marks to see how the narrator's point of view shapes the description. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the narrator's perspective on Willow Creek at the beginning and at the end? Use evidence from the passage.	**At first, the narrator sees the creek as "only a muddy shortcut." At the end, the narrator sees it as a place worth protecting.**
2	How does the narrator's earlier view of the creek affect the details included in the first paragraph?	**The narrator focuses on muddy water, cans, and plastic because the creek seems unpleasant and unimportant at first.**
3	What cleanup detail does the narrator choose to include in the last paragraph? What does it show about the narrator's perspective?	**The narrator includes carrying twelve full bags to the trash bins. This shows pride in helping and growing care for the creek.**
4	How is Grandma's perspective different from the narrator's perspective at the start of the passage?	**Grandma sees the creek as a living place and feels sad about litter. The narrator sees it as a muddy shortcut.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I am the new student who eats lunch near the playground. I notice the empty bench, the loud games, and the teacher who waves when I pass. Because I feel unsure, I describe the playground as busy and a little lonely.

Accept answers that identify the narrator's shift from seeing the creek as an unpleasant shortcut to seeing it as a living place worth protecting. For the open task, accept varied places and perspectives if the details clearly match the speaker's viewpoint and the final sentence explains the effect.