Trees at Work

Notice how explanations, cause and effect, and comparison guide a reader.

5.T.T.2 "Expository Techniques: Explain, analyze, and use expository techniques to shape understandings."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that defines canopy, circle the cause-and-effect signal words, and box the sentence that compares young and mature trees to see how the author builds understanding.

City Trees Help

1. City trees do more than make sidewalks look green. Their leafy tops form a canopy, which is a layer of branches and leaves above the street. On a hot day, the canopy blocks some sunlight from pavement and buildings. Shade can make nearby surfaces cooler, helping people and pets feel more comfortable as they walk or wait for a bus.

2. Trees also affect rainwater. When rain falls on a bare parking lot, much of it rushes across the hard surface. A tree canopy catches some drops first, and its roots help soil soak up water. As a result, less water may flow quickly into storm drains. This can lower the chance of puddles and flooding during heavy rain.

3. Not every tree cools a place in the same way. A young tree has a small canopy, while a mature tree usually has more leaves and casts wider shade. Both kinds can help a neighborhood over time. Communities often plant young trees now because, as the trees grow, their benefits can reach more streets, homes, and playgrounds.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the definition of canopy help the reader understand the first paragraph?

2. Which two details show how trees can make an area cooler?

3. Trace the cause-and-effect relationship between tree roots and flooding.

4. How does comparing a young tree with a mature tree shape the reader's understanding of why communities plant trees?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly 3 sentences about a useful outdoor feature at school. Include a definition, a cause-and-effect relationship with a signal word, and a comparison.

Trees at Work

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that defines canopy, circle the cause-and-effect signal words, and box the sentence that compares young and mature trees to see how the author builds understanding. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the definition of canopy help the reader understand the first paragraph?	**It explains that a canopy is the layer of branches and leaves above the street.**
2	Which two details show how trees can make an area cooler?	**The canopy blocks some sunlight from pavement and buildings, and shade can make nearby surfaces cooler.**
3	Trace the cause-and-effect relationship between tree roots and flooding.	**Tree roots help soil soak up water, so less water may rush into storm drains and there may be less flooding.**
4	How does comparing a young tree with a mature tree shape the reader's understanding of why communities plant trees?	**The comparison shows that young trees have smaller canopies now, but they can provide wider shade and more benefits as they grow.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A compost bin is a container where food scraps and leaves break down. Because tiny organisms break down the scraps, the bin can make compost for garden soil. Unlike a trash can, a compost bin turns some waste into material that can help plants grow.

Accept answers that accurately explain how a definition, supporting detail, cause and effect, or comparison helps readers understand the passage. For Part 3, check for exactly three sentences and all three requested expository techniques.