The Sharing Shelf

Trace how an informational text builds and supports an idea.

6.P.EICC.1.d "Build a repertoire of comprehension and composition skills, strategies, and techniques, drawing from them as needed to aid the interpretation and construction of texts. (I/C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that states the main idea of the tool-lending program. Circle two details that explain how the program helps people or what it needs to work.

Borrow, Build, Share

1 On Saturday mornings, the Eastside Library's tool-lending shelf is often empty by noon. Residents can borrow drills, sewing machines, and gardening tools with a library card, just as they borrow books. The program began after librarians noticed that many people needed a tool for one small repair but could not afford to buy it. By sharing equipment, the library helps neighbors finish projects while reducing the number of rarely used tools stored in garages at home.

2 The shelf is more than a convenient place to borrow supplies. It can save money and prevent waste. A cordless drill, for instance, may cost more than a family wants to spend for hanging one picture. In its first year, the Eastside program recorded 640 tool loans, and its most borrowed item was a pressure washer. Those numbers suggest that many residents found a use for shared tools, especially for jobs they did not need to repeat.

3 Tool lending also depends on careful planning. Library workers inspect returned items, replace broken parts, and teach borrowers how to use unfamiliar equipment safely. Some libraries ask borrowers to watch a short safety video before taking home certain tools. These steps take time, yet they protect both people and the shared collection. When a community shares resources responsibly, a small library shelf can become a practical answer to everyday problems for many neighbors each week.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which sentence gives the strongest numerical evidence that residents used the tool-lending program?

2. How does the second paragraph support the idea that a tool-lending shelf can help residents?

3. Why does the author include the detail about a safety video?

4. How does the author organize the three paragraphs to build the main idea?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence informational paragraph proposing a shared-item program at your school. Start with a clear main idea, include two supporting details, and end with one step needed to make the program work.

ANSWER KEY # The Sharing Shelf

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that states the main idea of the tool-lending program. Circle two details that explain how the program helps people or what it needs to work. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which sentence gives the strongest numerical evidence that residents used the tool-lending program?	**"In its first year, the Eastside program recorded 640 tool loans, and its most borrowed item was a pressure washer."**
2	How does the second paragraph support the idea that a tool-lending shelf can help residents?	**It gives an example of avoiding the cost of buying a drill and provides loan data showing that residents used shared tools.**
3	Why does the author include the detail about a safety video?	**It shows that tool lending requires planning to protect borrowers and the shared equipment.**
4	How does the author organize the three paragraphs to build the main idea?	**The text introduces the program and its purpose, gives benefits and evidence of use, then explains the planning needed to run it responsibly.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should create a sports-equipment checkout cart for recess. Students could borrow jump ropes and balls instead of buying their own. This would give more students a chance to play and would keep shared equipment in use. A staff member could check each item in and out so the cart stays organized.

Accept answers that accurately connect evidence to the author's main idea and explain the text's organization. For Part 3, accept varied programs if the response has four sentences, a clear proposal, two relevant details, and a practical final step.