Messages in Motion

Use context clues to infer audience and purpose.

6.P.ST.1.b "Consider how context impacts the purposes of the author and the audience. (I/C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number the three messages, underline clues about where or when each appears, circle words that show who might read it, and box words that reveal what the writer wants readers to do.

A Day of Notices

1. At 6:45 a.m., rain tapped the roof of the downtown bus shelter. A bright screen above the bench showed: "Route 12, Oak Hill, delayed 20 minutes. Route 8 will leave from Bay C. Check the blue signs for detours." A few people held backpacks, umbrellas, and travel mugs while they watched the screen. Beside it, a map used thick arrows to point around the closed River Street bridge. The message changed every few minutes as buses moved through the wet streets.

2. Later that morning, a paper sign appeared on the door of Green Leaf Market. It read: "Please enter through the side door today. Keep the front steps clear for delivery carts. Fresh bread will arrive at noon." A small drawing of a loaf sat beside the last line. Inside, workers rolled boxes past the front entrance, where melted snow had made the floor slippery. Its letters were large and dark against a yellow background near the entrance.

3. That afternoon, a note went home in the backpacks of students at Harbor Middle School. The top line said, "Science Night, Thursday, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m." Below it were directions to the cafeteria, a request to bring a grown-up, and a line asking families to return a tear-off slip by Tuesday. The note also listed a phone number and said that Spanish interpretation would be available. On Thursday, tables held student-built wind turbines, rock samples, and magnifying lenses.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. The screen message is likely for people waiting to travel by bus. Which two details support this inference?

2. What does the writer of the market sign most likely want readers to do? How do the doorway conditions help you infer this purpose?

3. Why does the school note include a tear-off slip, a phone number, and Spanish interpretation? What audience can you infer from these details?

4. Compare the bus screen and the school note. How do their different locations and timing affect the way each message is written?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine that school will close early tomorrow because a snowstorm is expected. Write a two-sentence message for families. In the first sentence, give the information they need. In the second sentence, explain how the audience and situation shaped your choices.

ANSWER KEY

Messages in Motion

GRADE 6 · 6.P.ST.1.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Number the three messages, underline clues about where or when each appears, circle words that show who might read it, and box words that reveal what the writer wants readers to do. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	The screen message is likely for people waiting to travel by bus. Which two details support this inference?	**It gives route numbers and says where Route 8 will leave. It also gives delay and detour information.**
2	What does the writer of the market sign most likely want readers to do? How do the doorway conditions help you infer this purpose?	**The writer wants readers to use the side door and keep the front steps clear. Delivery carts are moving near the front entrance, and the floor is slippery.**
3	Why does the school note include a tear-off slip, a phone number, and Spanish interpretation? What audience can you infer from these details?	**The note is meant for families or grown-ups, including families who may need Spanish interpretation. The details help them respond, ask questions, and attend Science Night.**
4	Compare the bus screen and the school note. How do their different locations and timing affect the way each message is written?	**The bus screen gives short, current travel updates for people at the shelter. The school note gives event details, directions, and a response deadline because families need information before a future event.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Harbor Middle School will dismiss at 12:30 p.m. tomorrow because snow is expected, so please arrange for your student to get home safely. I used the dismissal time and a clear request because families need to make transportation plans before school.

Accept reasonable inferences when students support them with details from the message and its setting. For Part 3, accept messages that give clear early-dismissal information and explain how family needs and the approaching storm shaped the writing.