Words That Win

Notice how precise language guides a community audience.

7.P.AC.1.b "Identify, apply, and analyze important, interesting, or effective uses of language, explaining or evaluating how specific word choices affect the target audience and support the text's purpose. (I/C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three words or phrases that make bats seem useful or safe. Circle one phrase that recognizes a reader's concern, then number the underlined choices 1, 2, and 3 to show which seems most persuasive.

A Home for Night Flyers

1 At dusk, Riverbend Park changes shifts. Swallows skim the pond, and little brown bats slip from cracks near the old boathouse. Each bat can eat many insects in one night, including mosquitoes that bother evening visitors. Yet the bats' shelter is crumbling. Instead of treating these animals as spooky intruders, the parks department proposes three wooden bat houses on poles near the wetland. The plan would give bats a safer roost while keeping the busy picnic area open to families.

2 These small structures would not turn the park into a bat colony. Bat houses are narrow, raised shelters designed to offer a warm resting place. Placing them beside the wetland, rather than above benches or playgrounds, respects both wildlife and visitors. The proposal also asks residents to report injured bats to trained wildlife staff, not to handle them. Careful steps like these make the project practical, not risky, and show that sharing space can be calm and sensible.

3 At the September 12 community meeting, the parks department will ask for comments on the bat-house plan. Neighbors who support the idea can speak, send a short message, or attend to learn more. A few sturdy shelters could protect a useful animal and make summer evenings more comfortable. The choice is not between people and bats. It is a chance to care for a neighborhood park in a thoughtful way, with room for both groups.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why does the writer describe the bats as “little brown bats” that “slip” from cracks instead of simply saying that bats live near the boathouse?

2. How does the contrast between “spooky intruders” and “useful animal” support the purpose of the passage?

3. Why does the writer specify that the bat houses would be beside the wetland, “rather than above benches or playgrounds”?

4. What effect does the sentence “The choice is not between people and bats” have on the target audience?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two sentences for your school community that ask people to support a small change, such as a garden, recycling station, or shaded bench. Use at least two specific word choices that make the plan seem useful or safe, then write a third sentence explaining how one word choice fits your audience and purpose.

ANSWER KEY

Words That Win

GRADE 7 · 7.P.AC.1.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three words or phrases that make bats seem useful or safe. Circle one phrase that recognizes a reader's concern, then number the underlined choices 1, 2, and 3 to show which seems most persuasive. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why does the writer describe the bats as "little brown bats" that "slip" from cracks instead of simply saying that bats live near the boathouse?	**The specific, gentle details help community readers picture the bats as small animals, not as something frightening.**
2	How does the contrast between "spooky intruders" and "useful animal" support the purpose of the passage?	**The contrast challenges a negative view of bats and encourages readers to support protecting them.**
3	Why does the writer specify that the bat houses would be beside the wetland, "rather than above benches or playgrounds"?	**This detail addresses visitors' safety and comfort concerns and makes the plan seem practical.**
4	What effect does the sentence "The choice is not between people and bats" have on the target audience?	**It reassures neighbors that they do not have to choose between enjoying the park and helping bats, which supports the proposal.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Please support a small native-plant garden beside the school fence, where butterflies can feed without crowding the playground. This colorful patch would help students observe local insects during science class. The word "without crowding" reassures families that the garden will not disrupt play.

Accept answers that identify a specific word or phrase and explain a reasonable effect on Riverbend neighbors or other community readers. For Part 3, accept varied plans if the student uses purposeful language and accurately explains how a word choice supports the audience and purpose.