Words That Move

Analyze how a writer's language targets an audience and supports a purpose.

8.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 paving seem harmful, and circle three that make the trees seem useful or necessary. In the margin, number the two phrases most likely to influence city council members.

Keep the Grove

1 On a July afternoon, the playground behind Maple Middle can feel like a skillet. The blacktop stores the sun's heat, and students hurry across it with water bottles pressed to their cheeks. Just beyond the fence, however, the small grove of oaks offers a cooler patch of shade. Our city council is considering a plan to replace that grove with extra parking spaces. Before it votes, council members should see the trees as more than scenery. They are working equipment for a safer, healthier neighborhood.

2 Trees cool nearby surfaces and filter some air pollution, but numbers alone may not move a budget discussion. Picture a first grader waiting for a bus beside a bare, blazing curb. Picture an older neighbor walking home when the pavement seems to throw heat upward. Those details turn a chart into people the council serves. Saving the grove will not solve every summer problem, yet removing it would erase one of the few places where neighbors can rest, talk, and breathe more comfortably.

3 Council members have a practical choice. They can spend money paving a space that will bake in the sun, or they can protect a living canopy that already serves the public. I urge them to keep the oaks and add marked parking spaces on an unused lot two blocks away. This is not a request to freeze the neighborhood in time. It is a request to build wisely, with room for cars and room for people. A city that plans for shade plans for the people who must live with its choices.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the comparison of the playground to a "skillet" affect the city council members who read the passage?

2. Why does the writer repeat the word "Picture" before describing the first grader and the older neighbor?

3. What does the word "erase" suggest about removing the grove? Why is it more effective than the word "remove" might be?

4. Explain how the contrast between a space that will "bake in the sun" and a "living canopy" supports the writer's purpose.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly two sentences to your principal asking for one improvement to a school space. In the first sentence, use a vivid comparison and a word with a strong positive or negative feeling; in the second, quote those two choices and explain how they could influence your principal.

ANSWER KEY # Words That Move

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three words or phrases that make paving seem harmful, and circle three that make the trees seem useful or necessary. In the margin, number the two phrases most likely to influence city council members. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the comparison of the playground to a "skillet" affect the city council members who read the passage?	**It makes the playground seem intensely hot and uncomfortable, helping council members see why shade is needed.**
2	Why does the writer repeat the word "Picture" before describing the first grader and the older neighbor?	**The repetition asks council members to imagine real people affected by heat, making the issue feel personal instead of only numerical.**
3	What does the word "erase" suggest about removing the grove? Why is it more effective than the word "remove" might be?	**"Erase" suggests a permanent loss of an important community space, making the decision seem more serious.**
4	Explain how the contrast between a space that will "bake in the sun" and a "living canopy" supports the writer's purpose.	**The negative image of hot pavement contrasts with the useful, alive image of the trees, persuading council members to protect the grove.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Please add outdoor lunch tables because our cafeteria is a thunderstorm at lunch, and its cramped tables make eating feel stressful. The comparison "thunderstorm" shows noisy confusion, while "cramped" stresses discomfort, so these choices may persuade the principal to add seating or improve the lunch schedule.

Accept other accurate explanations that name a specific word or phrase and connect its effect to city council members and the purpose of saving the grove. For the open response, check for exactly two sentences, a clear request, the required language choices, and an explanation of audience effect.