Under the Stars

Study how a guide shapes a first-time visitor's experience.

9.P.AC.2 "Writing like a Reader: Construct texts with the audience's experience in mind, basing decisions about craft techniques on context and purpose."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details that anticipate a first-time visitor's needs. Then number two writer choices that make the guide feel welcoming and easy to use.

First-Time Stargazing Guide

1. Tonight's stargazing session is designed for people who have never used a telescope. You do not need to know constellation names or own special equipment. Meet the volunteers at the east entrance of Riverside Park at 8:30 p.m., before the sky becomes fully dark. They will point out the check-in table with a small red lantern, a color chosen because bright white light makes it harder for eyes to adjust to darkness. Bring a jacket, closed-toe shoes, and a flashlight covered with red cellophane if you have one. The event is free, and families may leave whenever they need to.

2. At the table, choose a sky map marked with large labels and follow the arrows to the viewing line. Please keep voices low while someone is looking through the telescope, but ask any question after they step aside. The volunteers will begin with the Moon, whose craters are easy to see, before moving to dimmer objects. If a cloud covers the view, listen for the short story behind the next object instead of waiting silently. This plan gives first-time visitors a clear place to stand, something familiar to notice, and a way to stay involved even when the sky changes.

3. To protect everyone's view, do not use camera flashes or phone screens without a red filter. A volunteer can help you change the screen setting, and no one will be embarrassed for asking. The path to the telescopes is uneven in places, so walk, stay behind the rope, and tell a volunteer if you need a chair or a closer viewing spot. By the end of the session, you should be able to find one bright object on your own and know where to turn for help. The guide uses calm, specific directions so a new visitor can feel curious rather than lost.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Who is the most likely audience for this guide? Use two details from the passage to support your answer.

2. What is the writer's main purpose? Explain how the meeting details in paragraph 1 help accomplish that purpose.

3. Why does the guide begin the telescope viewing with the Moon before moving to dimmer objects?

4. How do the reassurance about asking for help and the specific safety directions shape a new visitor's experience?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 3-sentence, 55-75-word welcome note for first-time students entering a school makerspace. Help them begin safely, using one concrete detail, one direct instruction, and one reassuring sentence.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three details that anticipate a first-time visitor's needs. Then number two writer choices that make the guide feel welcoming and easy to use. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Who is the most likely audience for this guide? Use two details from the passage to support your answer.	**The audience is first-time stargazers. The guide says readers may never have used a telescope and may not know constellation names or own special equipment.**
2	What is the writer's main purpose? Explain how the meeting details in paragraph 1 help accomplish that purpose.	**The purpose is to help new visitors attend and use the stargazing session successfully. The entrance, time, check-in table, and red lantern give readers a clear, low-stress way to arrive and begin.**
3	Why does the guide begin the telescope viewing with the Moon before moving to dimmer objects?	**The Moon's craters are easier for beginners to see, so starting there gives first-time visitors a familiar, successful viewing experience.**
4	How do the reassurance about asking for help and the specific safety directions shape a new visitor's experience?	**They make the experience feel safe and welcoming. Readers know what to do, where to go for help, and that asking questions is acceptable.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Start at the blue tape line beside the supply cart, where a student helper will give you safety glasses and show you the labeled bins. Put on the glasses before you touch a tool, and keep loose sleeves away from the spinning drill. If you are unsure which tool to choose, ask at the green help table, because beginners are expected here.

Accept supported answers that identify first-time stargazers as the audience and connect craft choices to making the event accessible, safe, or welcoming. For the open response, accept varied contexts and wording if the response meets the sentence, word-count, and craft requirements.