Words That Fit

Notice how a garden guide speaks to its readers.

4.W.2.f "Use language and vocabulary appropriate to the audience and topic."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two garden terms the writer explains. Circle the words that help a fourth-grade garden helper understand each term.

A Guide for Garden Helpers

1. Our school garden has a busy team of fourth-grade helpers. If you join them, you may notice dry soil around the tomato plants. The sun warms that bare soil, and water can leave it quickly. Gardeners call this loss evaporation: liquid water turns into water vapor and moves into the air. A layer of mulch can slow that loss.

2. Mulch is a cover made from materials such as dry leaves or small wood chips. Spread it over the soil, not on the tomato stems. Leave a little space around each stem so air can reach it. The cover shades the ground and helps the soil stay moist longer. It can also keep weeds from growing by blocking some of the light they need.

3. Before you add mulch, ask an adult which materials are safe for the garden. Some fresh grass clippings can form thick, wet clumps, so our team uses dry leaves instead. After spreading them, feel the soil with a finger. If it is dry below the surface, tell an adult that the plants may need water. Your careful check helps the garden team make a good choice.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the writer help fourth-grade helpers understand the word evaporation?

2. Which words explain what mulch is?

3. Why is "Spread it over the soil, not on the tomato stems" more useful to garden helpers than "Put it in the garden"?

4. Find two phrases that show this guide is written for garden helpers, not plant scientists.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write four sentences for first graders explaining how to care for classroom books. Use words they will understand, and explain one helpful book word in your own words.

ANSWER KEY

Words That Fit

GRADE 4 · 4.W.2.f

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two garden terms the writer explains. Circle the words that help a fourth-grade garden helper understand each term. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the writer help fourth-grade helpers understand the word evaporation?	**The writer explains that liquid water turns into water vapor and moves into the air.**
2	Which words explain what mulch is?	**Mulch is described as a cover made from materials such as dry leaves or small wood chips.**
3	Why is “Spread it over the soil, not on the tomato stems” more useful to garden helpers than “Put it in the garden”?	**It tells helpers exactly where to put the mulch and where not to put it.**
4	Find two phrases that show this guide is written for garden helpers, not plant scientists.	**“Fourth-grade helpers” and “feel the soil with a finger” both suit the guide’s audience.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Hold a book with clean hands so its pages stay neat. Use a bookmark, a small strip of paper that saves your place. Turn each page gently from the corner. Put the book back on the shelf when you finish.

Accept other passage phrases for question 4 if the student explains how they suit garden helpers. For Your Turn, look for four clear sentences, first-grade-friendly language, and an explanation of one book word.