Room to Grow

A discussion changes a courtyard plan.

7.CC.3 "Acknowledge new information expressed by others, and consider it in relation to one's own views."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one new fact from each student that makes Aiden rethink his plan. Circle the words in Aiden's replies that show he considered those facts.

The Courtyard Garden

1 At a student council meeting, Aiden proposed replacing the large paved square in the school courtyard with a pollinator garden. "We could plant flowers that give bees and butterflies food," he said. "Right now, the square gets little use except at dismissal." Aiden pictured students watching insects during science class. He thought taking out all the pavement would leave the most room for plants. Other council members liked the idea of a garden, but two students had questions about his plan.

2 Priya spoke first. "That square is the smooth route between the side door and the cafeteria," she said. "Some students use wheelchairs or walkers, and the grass beside it gets muddy after rain." Aiden had called the pavement unused, but Priya's point made him reconsider. "I did not notice how important the route is," he replied. "I still want a garden, but it cannot block that path." He suggested putting a narrow strip of plants along the fence instead of digging up the whole square.

3 Then Sam raised another concern. The fence stays in shade for much of the day, he explained, while the corner beside the path gets direct sunlight. Aiden answered, "The fence seemed like a simple fix, but your point makes me doubt it will work for the flowers we had in mind." Priya suggested keeping the paved route and trying a small bed in the sunny corner. The group agreed to check that the corner would still leave enough room to pass before making a final plan.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1 What does Priya tell Aiden that challenges his view that the square gets little use?

2 Compare Aiden's replies to Priya and Sam. How does he show in both replies that he is considering what they said?

3 How does Sam's new information challenge Aiden's idea of planting along the fence?

4 How does Priya's final suggestion consider both her concern and Sam's? What does the group still need to check?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a fourth student says, "The school closes in summer, so staff cannot water the new plants then." Write three sentences that acknowledge this information, explain how it affects your view of the sunny-corner plan, and propose a next step.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one new fact from each student that makes Aiden rethink his plan. Circle the words in Aiden's replies that show he considered those facts. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does Priya tell Aiden that challenges his view that the square gets little use?	**The square is a smooth route to the cafeteria for students using wheelchairs or walkers, while the nearby grass gets muddy.**
2	Compare Aiden's replies to Priya and Sam. How does he show in both replies that he is considering what they said?	**He admits that Priya showed him the route matters and says he will not block it. He also admits that Sam's point makes him doubt the fence plan.**
3	How does Sam's new information challenge Aiden's idea of planting along the fence?	**Sam says the fence stays shady for much of the day, making Aiden doubt that it is a good place for the flowers they had in mind.**
4	How does Priya's final suggestion consider both her concern and Sam's? What does the group still need to check?	**The small bed would be in a sunny corner while the paved route stays in place. The group still needs to check that there will be enough room to pass.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I had supported a garden in the sunny corner, but I had not considered who would water it during summer vacation. This new information makes me think the group should not plant until it has a summer care plan. I would ask whether volunteers could get access to water the bed, and if not, I would suggest waiting.

Accept answers that accurately connect a speaker's new information to Aiden's thinking, even if students use different wording. For the open task, accept other practical next steps if the response addresses summer watering and contains three sentences.