The Last Word

Notice how an ending brings ideas together.

C.4.1.e "Provide a concluding section."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB In the last paragraph, write 1 beside the sentence that connects back to the opening, 2 beside the sentence that looks ahead, and 3 beside the sentence that leaves the main idea with the reader.

The Story in Our Plant Journal

(1) On Monday, our class planted bean seeds in small cups. By Friday, one cup held a green shoot, while another still looked like plain soil. Was the second seed ever going to sprout? Instead of guessing, we started a plant journal. Each day, we wrote down what we saw. A plant journal helps us notice changes that are easy to miss.

(2) We dated each entry and measured the shoots with a ruler. We also noted when we watered the cups and where we placed them. After a week, the journal showed that the second seed did sprout, just later than the first. Our notes helped us compare the plants over time. Without those notes, we might have forgotten when each shoot appeared.

(3) At the end of our project, the plant journal held more than a list of numbers. It told the story of two seeds growing at different speeds. The cup that once looked empty gave us a reason to keep looking and recording. Next time we plant seeds, we will start a journal right away. Careful notes can turn a small surprise into something we understand.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which sentence in the ending points back to the cup that looked like plain soil at the start?

2. What two ideas from the rest of the passage does the ending bring together?

3. Which sentence in the ending looks ahead? Why does it fit this passage?

4. Does the last sentence introduce a new topic or bring together the passage's main idea? Use one earlier detail to explain.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you wrote about a reading log that helps you remember books and suggest them to friends. Write a two- or three-sentence conclusion that brings those ideas together and ends with what you will do next.

The Last Word

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In the last paragraph, write 1 beside the sentence that connects back to the opening, 2 beside the sentence that looks ahead, and 3 beside the sentence that leaves the main idea with the reader. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which sentence in the ending points back to the cup that looked like plain soil at the start?	**The cup that once looked empty gave us a reason to keep looking and recording.**
2	What two ideas from the rest of the passage does the ending bring together?	**The seeds grew at different speeds, and the journal helped the class notice and understand the difference.**
3	Which sentence in the ending looks ahead? Why does it fit this passage?	**"Next time we plant seeds, we will start a journal right away." It fits because the class learned that journal notes were useful.**
4	Does the last sentence introduce a new topic or bring together the passage's main idea? Use one earlier detail to explain.	**It brings together the main idea. The journal notes helped the class see that the second seed sprouted later than the first.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

My reading log helps me remember which stories I liked and why. Those notes also make it easier to suggest a book to a friend. When I finish my next book, I will add it to the log.

For the marking job, accept 1 beside the third sentence of the last paragraph, 2 beside the fourth, and 3 beside the fifth. For the open task, accept conclusions that bring together both uses of the reading log and end with a fitting next action.