The Last Word

Notice how an ending returns to the main idea and leaves a final thought.

C.4.2.g "Provide a concluding section."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB In the last paragraph, underline the sentence that brings back the main idea, circle two ways the garden matters, and put a star beside the final thought.

From Bare Dirt to Butterflies

1 At the edge of our schoolyard, a patch of dirt sat empty all year. Our class wondered if it could become a place for butterflies. We decided to plant a small garden with flowers that grow in our area. A butterfly garden would add color to the schoolyard and give visiting insects a place to find food.

2 First, we asked the custodian where digging was safe. Then we loosened the soil and planted purple coneflowers and black-eyed Susans. Both kinds of flowers can provide nectar for butterflies. We put a shallow dish of water nearby and added a few stones where insects could rest. Each week, two students checked the soil and watered it when it felt dry.

3 That bare patch is now a small butterfly garden built by our class. The flowers give visiting butterflies a place to feed, while caring for the plants gives us a reason to notice changes outside. Even when no butterflies appear, the garden makes our schoolyard more inviting. A small piece of ground can become a place that helps living things and brings people together.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which paragraph is the concluding section? How does its first sentence bring back the main idea?

2. Which detail from the middle paragraph does the ending connect to when it mentions caring for the plants?

3. How does the ending show that the garden matters even when no butterflies appear?

4. How does the last sentence leave readers with a thought that reaches beyond this one garden?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you wrote about your class making a welcome board with names and friendly messages for new students. Write a three-sentence concluding section that brings back the main idea, explains why the board matters, and ends with a thought about kindness.

The Last Word

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In the last paragraph, underline the sentence that brings back the main idea, circle two ways the garden matters, and put a star beside the final thought. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which paragraph is the concluding section? How does its first sentence bring back the main idea?	**Paragraph 3. Its first sentence returns to the bare patch becoming a butterfly garden.**
2	Which detail from the middle paragraph does the ending connect to when it mentions caring for the plants?	**Students checked the soil each week and watered it when it felt dry.**
3	How does the ending show that the garden matters even when no butterflies appear?	**It says the garden makes the schoolyard more inviting.**
4	How does the last sentence leave readers with a thought that reaches beyond this one garden?	**It suggests that even a small piece of ground can help living things and bring people together.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our class's welcome board helps new students feel that they belong. The friendly messages show them that classmates are ready to say hello. A few kind words can make a new place feel less strange.

For the marking job, accept the first sentence underlined, two benefits circled in the middle sentences, and a star beside the last sentence. For the writing task, accept three sentences that serve the three requested purposes without adding a new step.