The Last Word

Study how a closing paragraph completes an argument.

C.5.2.g "Provide a concluding section."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB In the final paragraph, underline the sentence that returns to the main idea, circle the two details repeated from paragraph 2, and put a star beside the sentence that asks readers to act. Use your marks to see how the ending connects to the rest of the piece.

A Shelf for Sharing

1. A book swap shelf could help more students find something they want to read. Many of us have books at home that we have finished but still enjoy. On a swap shelf, a student could leave one of those books and choose another. The shelf would give good books another turn instead of leaving them untouched in a closet.

2. The shelf would need a few simple rules to work well. Students should bring books that are clean and have all their pages. A class could check the shelf each Friday and put books back in order. Students who cannot bring a book could still borrow one and return it later. That way, the shelf would welcome everyone.

3. In the end, a book swap shelf would do more than move books from one backpack to another. It would help students discover new stories while giving old favorites another reader. Clear rules and a weekly check would keep the shelf ready for the next person. Our school should set aside one small shelf and give the idea a try.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which words at the start of the final paragraph signal that the writer is wrapping up?

2. Which sentence in the conclusion returns to the main idea from paragraph 1? How does it connect?

3. Which two details from paragraph 2 does the conclusion bring back?

4. What does the final sentence ask the school to do? Why is that a fitting way to end this piece?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine your class has written a piece arguing for a quiet drawing corner at recess. Its reasons are that students could make art and have a calm place to spend time. Write a concluding paragraph of 3 to 4 sentences that returns to the idea, mentions both reasons, and ends by asking the school to try it.

The Last Word

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In the final paragraph, underline the sentence that returns to the main idea, circle the two details repeated from paragraph 2, and put a star beside the sentence that asks readers to act. Use your marks to see how the ending connects to the rest of the piece. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which words at the start of the final paragraph signal that the writer is wrapping up?	**"In the end."**
2	Which sentence in the conclusion returns to the main idea from paragraph 1? How does it connect?	**"It would help students discover new stories while giving old favorites another reader." Like paragraph 1, it says the shelf helps students find books and gives finished books new readers.**
3	Which two details from paragraph 2 does the conclusion bring back?	**The rules for the shelf and the weekly check to put books in order.**
4	What does the final sentence ask the school to do? Why is that a fitting way to end this piece?	**It asks the school to set aside a shelf and try the idea. This follows the writer's reasons for having a book swap shelf.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A quiet drawing corner could make recess work for more students. It would give students a place to create art and a calm choice when they need a break from noisy games. Our school should choose a spot and try a drawing corner at recess.

Accept accurate paraphrases in the short answers. For Your Turn, look for a 3- to 4-sentence conclusion that includes both given reasons and ends with a request to try the drawing corner.