The Leaf Plan

Read how details support an author's claims.

RI.3.8 "Describe how reasons and evidence support specific claims the author makes in a text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each claim the author makes about fallen leaves. Circle a reason for each claim, then draw a line to a detail that supports that reason.

Where Should the Leaves Go?

1. Leave some fallen leaves in a school garden. A layer of leaves gives small animals a place to hide. Pill bugs, beetles, and other tiny animals can crawl under the leaves, away from birds and bright sun. Earthworms also move through damp soil beneath leaf cover. If we sweep every leaf away, these animals lose some of their shelter.

2. Leaves can also help the soil in a garden bed. As fallen leaves break down, they become part of the soil and add nutrients that plants need to grow. Worms and other tiny animals help break the leaves into smaller bits. A thin layer of leaves can also slow water from drying out of the soil on a sunny day.

3. The best plan is to keep leaves in garden beds, not on paths. Wet leaves on a path can be slippery for people walking to class. Garden beds give the leaves room to break down without getting in anyone's way. A class could rake path leaves onto the soil around plants, leaving a thin layer instead of a deep pile against the stems.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What claim does the author make about leaves and small animals? Give one detail that supports it.

2. How does the detail about worms breaking leaves into smaller bits support the claim that leaves help garden soil?

3. Which detail supports the claim that leaves belong in garden beds, not on paths? Explain how it supports the claim.

4. The author suggests leaving a thin layer of leaves around plants. Which detail from another paragraph supports this advice, and why?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A school wants to throw away all its fallen leaves so the paths stay clear. Write three sentences giving a different plan. Use details from two different paragraphs to explain how your plan helps the garden and keeps people safe.

ANSWER KEY

The Leaf Plan

GRADE 3 · RI.3.8

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each claim the author makes about fallen leaves. Circle a reason for each claim, then draw a line to a detail that supports that reason. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What claim does the author make about leaves and small animals? Give one detail that supports it.	**Some leaves should stay in the garden because they give small animals shelter. Beetles can hide under them, away from birds and bright sun.**
2	How does the detail about worms breaking leaves into smaller bits support the claim that leaves help garden soil?	**Worms help leaves break down. As the leaves break down, they add nutrients to the soil.**
3	Which detail supports the claim that leaves belong in garden beds, not on paths? Explain how it supports the claim.	**Wet leaves can make a path slippery. Moving them to garden beds keeps the path safer.**
4	The author suggests leaving a thin layer of leaves around plants. Which detail from another paragraph supports this advice, and why?	**A thin layer of leaves slows water from drying out of the soil. This helps the plants around the leaves.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Keep the leaves in garden beds instead of throwing them away. Beetles can hide under the leaves, so keeping them helps small animals. Wet leaves can make paths slippery, so raking them into beds keeps people safer.

Accept other accurate passage details when the student explains how they support the claim. For Part 3, look for a plan that keeps paths clear and uses relevant details from two different paragraphs.