Beyond the Shade

Trace how details develop the ideas in an informational text.

RI.6.2 "Analyze how the central ideas are reflected in a text by citing particular details and/or providing an objective summary."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that show how street trees help a neighborhood. Circle two details that show what trees need to survive, then use your marks to think about the passage's central ideas.

What Street Trees Do

1 On a hot afternoon, a sidewalk beneath a tree can feel cooler than bare pavement nearby. Leaves block some sunlight, while water released from leaves helps cool the surrounding air. In neighborhoods with few trees, dark streets and buildings absorb heat all day. That heat can make walking to a bus stop uncomfortable, especially for older adults and young children. Planting street trees can add shade where people need it most, but a small new tree cannot provide the same shade as a mature one.

2 Street trees also change what happens during a rainstorm. Rain that falls on roofs and pavement rushes toward storm drains. If a drain fills, water may pool in the road. Some rain lands on leaves and evaporates before reaching the ground. Roots also help soil absorb water that would otherwise run over hard surfaces. One tree will not prevent a flood, yet many trees across a neighborhood can help slow the flow of rainwater. This is one reason trees are useful even on days when nobody needs shade.

3 Getting those benefits takes more than digging holes. A tree needs enough space for its roots and a species suited to the local climate. Near power lines, a city may choose a smaller tree instead of one that will grow tall. Young trees also need water while their roots become established. Workers must check for damaged branches as trees grow. When a city plans for these needs, its trees are more likely to survive and keep shading sidewalks and slowing rainwater for years.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What central idea about heat does the first paragraph develop? Cite two details that support it.

2. How do the details about leaves and roots in paragraph 2 support a central idea about rainwater?

3. What central idea does paragraph 3 develop? Explain how two details support it.

4. How does the last sentence connect ideas from the first two paragraphs? Cite one detail from each paragraph.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write an objective summary of the whole passage in three or four sentences. Include both what street trees do and what they need, using at least two details from different paragraphs without adding your opinion.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details that show how street trees help a neighborhood. Circle two details that show what trees need to survive, then use your marks to think about the passage's central ideas. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What central idea about heat does the first paragraph develop? Cite two details that support it.	**Street trees can make hot places more comfortable. Their leaves block sunlight and release water that helps cool the air.**
2	How do the details about leaves and roots in paragraph 2 support a central idea about rainwater?	**They show how trees can slow rainwater runoff: some rain lands on leaves and evaporates, while roots help soil absorb water.**
3	What central idea does paragraph 3 develop? Explain how two details support it.	**Trees need planning and care to survive. They need space for their roots, and young trees need water while their roots become established.**
4	How does the last sentence connect ideas from the first two paragraphs? Cite one detail from each paragraph.	**It connects the benefits of shade and slower rainwater runoff. Paragraph 1 says leaves block sunlight, and paragraph 2 says roots help soil absorb water.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Street trees can make neighborhoods more comfortable by shading sidewalks and cooling the air. They can also slow rainwater because leaves catch some rain and roots help soil absorb it. To keep these benefits, cities must choose trees that fit their planting sites and care for them as they grow.

Accept accurately stated central ideas supported by relevant passage details. Summaries should cover benefits and care without personal opinions or claims the passage does not make.