Lights Along the Way

Read how an author makes a case for changing nighttime lighting.

RI.6.6 "Determine an author's perspective and purpose in a text, and explain how it is conveyed in a text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two phrases that show the author's view of unneeded lights, circle the action the author wants building managers to take, and number two places where the author answers a possible concern.

A Safer Night for Migrating Birds

1. On spring nights, a bird crossing our town may be traveling hundreds of miles. Many birds migrate after dark, when the air is often cooler and predators may be less active. Yet the glow from tall buildings can pull birds toward places they would otherwise pass. A bird drawn into that maze of light may strike a window. The glass is hard to see, especially when it reflects the sky or trees. We cannot clear every danger from a migration route, but we can stop adding an avoidable one.

2. The problem is not every light in every room. It is the light left blazing in empty offices and near upper windows after people have gone home. During spring and fall migration, several cities encourage building owners to switch off unneeded lights at night. This simple step gives birds fewer bright spots to follow and can save electricity. Turning off a vacant office light does not require anyone to walk through a dark stairwell. A safer route for birds does not have to mean a less safe building for people.

3. Building managers can act without waiting for a new law or a costly machine. They can set timers for empty floors, ask cleaning crews to turn lights off when they leave, and keep lights needed for exits and security. Some people may wonder whether one building matters when a whole city shines. But every dark window removes one bright patch from a bird's path. This spring, managers should start with the easiest switch: the lights in rooms nobody is using. Those lights can stay off while the birds pass overhead.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the author's view of unneeded lights during bird migration? Explain how a phrase in the first paragraph conveys that view.

2. Why does the author say, “The problem is not every light in every room”? Explain how this statement helps the author's purpose.

3. Who is the author trying to persuade in the last paragraph? How do the examples of timers and cleaning crews help with that purpose?

4. How does the author answer the concern that one building cannot make a difference? Explain how that answer supports the author's purpose.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence note to your school principal proposing a lighting plan for spring migration nights. Convey the passage author's perspective and purpose by using two accurate details from different paragraphs, and address a safety concern.

ANSWER KEY

Lights Along the Way

GRADE 6 · RI.6.6

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two phrases that show the author's view of unneeded lights, circle the action the author wants building managers to take, and number two places where the author answers a possible concern. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the author's view of unneeded lights during bird migration? Explain how a phrase in the first paragraph conveys that view.	**The author sees unneeded lights as an avoidable danger to migrating birds. Calling bright buildings a "maze of light" suggests that the lights can lead birds into trouble.**
2	Why does the author say, "The problem is not every light in every room"? Explain how this statement helps the author's purpose.	**The author wants readers to consider switching off unneeded lights, not all lights. The statement makes the proposal sound practical and addresses concern about people needing light.**
3	Who is the author trying to persuade in the last paragraph? How do the examples of timers and cleaning crews help with that purpose?	**The author is trying to persuade building managers. Timers and cleaning crews give them specific, manageable ways to turn off unneeded lights.**
4	How does the author answer the concern that one building cannot make a difference? Explain how that answer supports the author's purpose.	**The author says that each dark window removes a bright patch from a bird's path. This encourages managers to act even if other buildings remain lit.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Many birds migrate after dark, and bright buildings can draw them toward windows they may hit. Could our school turn off lights in empty classrooms during spring migration nights? Timers could handle unused rooms, while exit and security lights stay on for safety. This small change would remove bright spots from birds' paths without leaving people in the dark.

Accept different marked phrases if they reveal the author's view, and accept either safety or the impact of one building as a concern. In the note, look for a practical request that uses accurate details from two paragraphs and preserves needed safety lighting.