

Seeds Take Flight

Explain how milkweed seeds travel and why their journey matters.

4R3 "In literary texts, describe a character, setting, or event, drawing on specific details in the text. (RL) In informational texts, explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts, including what happened and why..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that tell what happens to a milkweed seed. Circle details that explain why moving away from the parent plant can help a seed grow.

A Milkweed Seed's Journey

- ① On a dry autumn day, a milkweed pod splits open. Inside are many flat brown seeds, each attached to a tuft of silky white fibers. When the wind blows, the fibers catch the moving air. A seed lifts from the pod and drifts away like a tiny parachute. This is one way a plant spreads its seeds.
- ② Moving away matters because seedlings need space, water, sunlight, and minerals from the soil. If many seeds fall directly below the parent plant, the young plants compete with one another. They may also compete with the large parent for light and water. A seed carried to an open spot has a better chance to grow into a new milkweed plant.
- ③ Not every milkweed seed travels far. Some land near the parent, and some snag on grass or a fence. Rain can press a seed into the ground, where it stays through winter. In spring, a seed that has water, warmth, and enough space can sprout. Its first roots take in water and minerals, helping the new plant begin to grow.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Describe how the wind moves a milkweed seed. Use two details from the passage.

2 Why might seedlings growing below the parent plant have trouble growing?

3 What can rain do to a milkweed seed, and what happens to the seed after that?

4 Explain what a seed needs to sprout in spring and how its first roots help it.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences that explain a milkweed seed's journey from the pod to a new plant. Include at least three details from the passage and explain why traveling to an open spot helps the seedling.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that tell what happens to a milkweed seed. Circle details that explain why moving away from the parent plant can help a seed grow. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Describe how the wind moves a milkweed seed. Use two details from the passage.	The seed has silky white fibers that catch moving air. The wind lifts the seed from the pod and lets it drift away.
2	Why might seedlings growing below the parent plant have trouble growing?	They compete with one another and with the parent plant for light and water.
3	What can rain do to a milkweed seed, and what happens to the seed after that?	Rain can press a seed into the ground. The seed stays there through winter.
4	Explain what a seed needs to sprout in spring and how its first roots help it.	A seed needs water, warmth, and enough space to sprout. Its first roots take in water and minerals, which help the new plant grow.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A milkweed pod splits open, and wind carries a seed by its silky fibers. Rain can press the seed into the ground for winter, and spring warmth and water help it sprout. Traveling to an open spot gives the seedling more space, light, and water.

Accept answers that accurately describe the seed's movement or growth using details from the passage. For the open response, check for exactly three sentences, at least three accurate details, and a clear explanation that open space reduces competition for resources.