What Counts as Welcome

Compare three voices on the future of a neighborhood lot

12.3.R.7 "Students will evaluate how two or more texts address similar themes or topics, using textual evidence to support their claims and inferences."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail in each text that shows what its speaker values, circle one word in each that reveals tone, and number two details from different texts that complicate each other.

The Rail Yard Lot

1. Text A, testimony from a gardener: "At the old rail yard, nobody asked for a membership card before handing me a shovel. On Saturdays, neighbors harvest tomatoes and leave extra bags beside the gate. The proposed apartments would cover the beds, and a narrow plaza cannot grow a supper. I know our city needs homes. My own sister shares a room with her son. But we could build on the empty paved strip beside the tracks and keep this soil. Before you vote, walk here at noon and count how many hands are working."

2. Text B, a mailer from the housing builder: "Forty apartments, including eight with restricted rents, could rise where the rail yard garden stands. A public plaza with benches and shade trees would face the street, open from dawn to dusk. Residents would be able to walk to the bus stop in three minutes. Some neighbors suggest building on the paved strip by the tracks. That strip must remain clear for emergency vehicles to reach the site. A city cannot welcome new neighbors if every unused lot stays exactly as it is."

3. Text C, notes from a student who visits the site: "At four o'clock, I watched Mrs. Vega show a boy how to tie up a tomato vine. Across the fence, a bus stopped near a row of crowded rental houses. I tried to picture the builder's plaza there: clean benches, maybe room for my grandmother to rest after her shift. Then Mrs. Vega offered me a tomato, warm from the sun. If the garden moves, would its people move together? If the apartments rise, who will get one? I wrote both questions in my notebook and left the page open."

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does each speaker in Texts A and B define a welcoming place? Use a detail from each text.

2. Compare the attitudes toward the garden's community in Texts A and C. Which detail in each text reveals that attitude?

3. How does Text C complicate Text B's claim that the apartments would welcome new neighbors? Use evidence from both texts.

4. Which text gives a more specific reason for its position on building on the paved strip, A or B? Compare what each says.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one paragraph comparing what Texts A and B leave unanswered about how many people use the garden. Use one detail from each text to explain why that gap matters, then propose a specific way the council could investigate it.

ANSWER KEY

What Counts as Welcome

GRADE 12 · 12.3.R.7

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one detail in each text that shows what its speaker values, circle one word in each that reveals tone, and number two details from different texts that complicate each other. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does each speaker in Texts A and B define a welcoming place? Use a detail from each text.	**Text A values a garden where anyone can receive a shovel or share the harvest. Text B values apartments for new neighbors and a public plaza.**
2	Compare the attitudes toward the garden's community in Texts A and C. Which detail in each text reveals that attitude?	**Text A argues confidently for keeping the community together by preserving the garden and asks council members to count its workers. Text C values that community but wonders whether its people would stay together if the garden moved.**
3	How does Text C complicate Text B's claim that the apartments would welcome new neighbors? Use evidence from both texts.	**Text B promises forty apartments, including eight with restricted rents. Text C asks who would get an apartment, raising a question about who would actually benefit.**
4	Which text gives a more specific reason for its position on building on the paved strip, A or B? Compare what each says.	**Text B gives the more specific reason: it says the strip must remain clear for emergency vehicles. Text A calls the strip empty and proposes building there without addressing access.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Text A asks council members to count the people working in the garden at noon, but that snapshot would miss visitors who arrive after work or collect food without gardening. Text B promises forty apartments, including eight with restricted rents, yet those numbers do not show how many people currently depend on the garden. Without a fuller count, the council cannot compare the people served by the two uses of the lot. It could record garden visits at several times each day for a month and ask visitors how they use the harvest.

Accept interpretations grounded in details from the named texts. For the open task, the proposed investigation should address garden use beyond the single noon count suggested in Text A.