Seeds on the Move

Study how facts and transitions build an informational text.

3.3.W.2 "Students will write facts about a subject, including a main idea with supporting details, in multiple paragraphs with transitional words and phrases."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the main idea sentence in each paragraph. Circle the transition at the start of each paragraph, then number two facts in each paragraph that support its main idea.

Three Ways Seeds Travel

(1) First, wind can carry light seeds to new places. A dandelion seed has a soft tuft that catches the air like a tiny parachute. When a breeze blows, the seed can lift off and float away from the plant. If it lands on soil with enough water and sunlight, it may grow into a new plant. This trip gives young plants more room to grow.

(2) Another way seeds travel is by riding on animals. Some plants make fruits called burrs, which have tiny hooks on the outside. Those hooks can catch on a dog's fur as it walks past. Later, the burr may fall off in a different spot. If its seeds reach the soil, new plants may grow there. The animal carries the seeds without even knowing it.

(3) Finally, water can carry some seeds far from the parent plant. A coconut has a thick, fibrous husk around its seed. This husk helps the coconut float on water. Ocean waves may move a coconut from one shore to another. If it reaches a suitable beach, the seed inside may sprout. Wind, animals, and water each help seeds spread to new places.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What main idea connects all three paragraphs? Give one supporting fact from each of two different paragraphs.

2. What is the main idea of paragraph 2? Give one fact that supports it.

3. Which phrase at the start of paragraph 2 links it to paragraph 1? What new way of traveling does it introduce?

4. What is the main idea of paragraph 3? Give two facts from that paragraph that support it.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose an animal that is not named in the passage. Write two short paragraphs with three sentences each. Start each paragraph with a main idea and add two true supporting facts; begin the second paragraph with a transition phrase.

ANSWER KEY

Seeds on the Move

GRADE 3 · 3.3.W.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the main idea sentence in each paragraph. Circle the transition at the start of each paragraph, then number two facts in each paragraph that support its main idea. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What main idea connects all three paragraphs? Give one supporting fact from each of two different paragraphs.	**Seeds travel to new places in different ways. A dandelion seed can float on a breeze, and a burr can catch on a dog's fur.**
2	What is the main idea of paragraph 2? Give one fact that supports it.	**Seeds can ride on animals. A burr's hooks can catch on a dog's fur.**
3	Which phrase at the start of paragraph 2 links it to paragraph 1? What new way of traveling does it introduce?	**"Another way" links the paragraphs. It introduces seeds traveling on animals instead of by wind.**
4	What is the main idea of paragraph 3? Give two facts from that paragraph that support it.	**Water can carry some seeds far from the parent plant. A coconut's husk helps it float, and ocean waves may move it to another shore.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Box turtles have shells that protect their bodies. The top of the shell covers the back. Many box turtles can close their shells to protect their heads and legs.

Also, box turtles use their legs to move on land. Their four legs carry them as they walk. Their claws help them dig in the soil.

Accept other accurate facts from the passage that support the stated main ideas. For Part 3, check for two separate three-sentence paragraphs, a main idea and two true supporting facts in each, and a transition phrase at the start of the second.