The Patch Debate

Compare views from a note and a class discussion.

4.7.R "Students will locate and use information from a variety of alphabetic, aural, visual, spatial, and/or gestural content to compare and contrast perspectives about ideas and topics."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one reason each person gives for using the patch. Circle the words that show what each person thinks about the path.

What Should Fill the Patch?

1. On Monday, the class found an empty patch beside the schoolyard path. Maya posted a note on the classroom door: "Please turn the patch into a small garden. Flowers would give bees a place to find food. We could watch the plants change each week." Maya also wrote that a narrow path through the garden would let everyone reach the playground.

2. At the class meeting, Theo spoke up. "I want the patch left open for four-square and chalk drawings," he said. "Our playground gets crowded, and we need room to move." Theo liked Maya's idea of watching living things, but he worried that raised garden beds would leave too little space for games. He wanted the path to stay easy to cross, too.

3. Later, Mr. Ellis, the school custodian, shared a third view. He said flowers could grow in containers along the fence instead of covering the patch. That would leave most of the ground open for games and keep the path clear for students who use it. He asked the class to test where the containers would fit before making a final choice.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do Maya and Theo disagree about the best use of the patch? Give a reason from each.

2. What does Theo agree with in Maya's note, even though he wants to use the patch differently?

3. How does Mr. Ellis's idea address one wish from Maya and one concern from Theo?

4. What concern about the path do all three share? Use a detail from Maya's note and one from Mr. Ellis's view.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

The class also wants an outdoor reading bench. Should it go in the middle of the patch or next to the fence? In three or four sentences, use a detail from Maya's note and one from Theo's words to explain how each might view the bench, then choose a spot and explain why.

ANSWER KEY

The Patch Debate

GRADE 4 · 4.7.R

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one reason each person gives for using the patch. Circle the words that show what each person thinks about the path. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do Maya and Theo disagree about the best use of the patch? Give a reason from each.	**Maya wants a garden so bees can find food and students can watch plants grow. Theo wants open space because the playground is crowded and students need room for games.**
2	What does Theo agree with in Maya's note, even though he wants to use the patch differently?	**Theo likes Maya's idea of watching living things.**
3	How does Mr. Ellis's idea address one wish from Maya and one concern from Theo?	**Containers along the fence would let flowers grow, as Maya wants, while leaving most of the patch open for Theo's games.**
4	What concern about the path do all three share? Use a detail from Maya's note and one from Mr. Ellis's view.	**All three want people to be able to use the path. Maya suggests a path through the garden so everyone can reach the playground, and Mr. Ellis wants to keep the path clear.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Maya might like a bench near flowers because she wants to watch plants change. Theo might worry that a bench in the middle would take away space for four-square. I would put it next to the fence so students could watch plants while the middle stays open for games.

Accept accurate paraphrases supported by the passage. For Your Turn, look for a detail tied to each person's view and a bench placement that responds to both.