Rain Garden Writing

Read a model, then build an informative paragraph.

5.3.W.2 "Students will compose informative essays that • introduce and develop a topic • incorporate evidence (e.g., specific facts, examples, charts..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that introduces the topic, circle two details that explain how a rain garden works, box two transition words or phrases, and draw a star beside the simile. Notice how these choices help the writer explain the topic.

A Place for Rain

1. After a hard rain, water can race across a schoolyard and gather in puddles. A rain garden gives some of that water a place to go. This shallow, planted area sits where rainwater can flow into it from roofs or paths. Instead of running straight toward a storm drain, the water rests among flowers and grasses. Like a sponge under a dripping cup, the garden's soil takes in water bit by bit.

2. First, rainwater flows into the low area, where it can slowly soak into the ground. For example, water from a school roof might travel through a downspout and across a path to reach the garden. Plant roots help keep the soil loose enough for water to enter. As the water sinks, less of it rushes across the pavement at once. That can mean fewer puddles near the garden.

3. Rain gardens do more than handle a downpour. Their flowers can offer nectar to visiting bees and butterflies, and their leaves add color to a plain space. However, a rain garden is not a pond. Its soil is meant to drain between storms, so standing water does not stay there all the time. By guiding runoff into the ground, this small planted space can help a busy schoolyard manage rain.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does paragraph 1 introduce the topic? Name one later detail in that paragraph that develops it.

2. Which two details in paragraph 2 explain how a rain garden handles runoff?

3. What change in ideas does “However” signal in paragraph 3?

4. Find the simile in paragraph 1. What does it help you picture about the garden?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a school routine other than caring for plants. Write one informative paragraph of 5 to 7 sentences explaining how it works and why it helps. Include two specific examples, at least two transitions, varied sentence beginnings, and one simile.

ANSWER KEY

Rain Garden Writing

GRADE 5 · 5.3.W.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that introduces the topic, circle two details that explain how a rain garden works, box two transition words or phrases, and draw a star beside the simile. Notice how these choices help the writer explain the topic. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does paragraph 1 introduce the topic? Name one later detail in that paragraph that develops it.	**It introduces a rain garden as a place for rainwater to go. A later detail says water can flow into its shallow, planted area from roofs or paths.**
2	Which two details in paragraph 2 explain how a rain garden handles runoff?	**Water slowly soaks into the ground, and plant roots help keep the soil loose enough for water to enter.**
3	What change in ideas does “However” signal in paragraph 3?	**The writer shifts from describing the garden's flowers to explaining that it is not a pond because its soil drains between storms.**
4	Find the simile in paragraph 1. What does it help you picture about the garden?	**The writer compares the soil to a sponge under a dripping cup. It helps readers picture water soaking in bit by bit.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our classroom book return bin helps books find their way back to the shelf. First, students place finished books in the bin instead of leaving them on their desks. For example, a reading group puts its shared animal book in the bin after the lesson. A student who finishes a mystery at lunch drops it in the same spot. Next, a helper checks the bin and returns each book to its shelf. Like a mailbox for stories, the bin gathers books in one place. As a result, classmates can find the books they need.

Accept other accurate details from the passage when students explain how the rain garden works. For the paragraph, look for an introduced topic, two concrete examples, clear transitions, varied sentence beginnings, and a simile.