Words That Persuade

Notice how vivid and precise words strengthen a school proposal.

5.4.W.2 "Students will use precise and vivid vocabulary in writing for the intended mode and effect on the audience."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three vivid words or phrases that help you picture the proposed spot. Circle two precise words or phrases that make the plan sound practical to the principal.

A Place for Stories

1. Dear Principal Rivera, at lunch our courtyard sits empty while the cafeteria buzzes like a beehive. Could we turn one quiet corner into an outdoor reading spot? A few benches beneath the maple tree would give students a calm place to open a book. Instead of balancing books beside noisy lunch trays, readers could settle into the shade and follow a story.

2. This spot would not need fancy equipment. Our class could carry books outside in a sturdy bin, then bring them back before the bell. The tree's broad branches would shield pages from bright sunlight. Students could read, whisper about a chapter, or simply enjoy a peaceful break. The benches would also leave the walking path clear for everyone passing through.

3. Please consider trying the reading spot for two weeks. We could count how many students use it and ask readers what they think. If the corner stays tidy and the path remains open, we will know the plan works. A small change could turn an unused patch of pavement into a welcoming place where stories have room to grow.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does “buzzes like a beehive” help the writer make a case for a quiet reading spot?

2. Name two details in paragraph 1 that help the principal picture the reading spot. What do they help the principal imagine?

3. Why is “sturdy bin” more convincing in this proposal than just “bin”?

4. Which words in paragraph 3 show that the writer cares about everyone who uses the courtyard? How might those words affect the principal?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write four or five sentences asking Principal Rivera to add a different low-cost lunchtime activity to the courtyard. Use at least three precise or vivid words or phrases, and include one detail that shows how your plan would work.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 5 · 5.4.W.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three vivid words or phrases that help you picture the proposed spot. Circle two precise words or phrases that make the plan sound practical to the principal. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does "buzzes like a beehive" help the writer make a case for a quiet reading spot?	**It helps the principal imagine how noisy the cafeteria is, making a quiet spot seem useful.**
2	Name two details in paragraph 1 that help the principal picture the reading spot. What do they help the principal imagine?	**"Benches beneath the maple tree" shows where students would sit, and "settle into the shade" helps the principal imagine a comfortable place to read.**
3	Why is "sturdy bin" more convincing in this proposal than just "bin"?	**"Sturdy" suggests the bin can hold the books while students carry them outside and back.**
4	Which words in paragraph 3 show that the writer cares about everyone who uses the courtyard? How might those words affect the principal?	**"The corner stays tidy and the path remains open" shows that the writer has considered cleanliness and space for others to walk.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Principal Rivera, could we add a chalk game area to the courtyard at lunch? Colorful hopscotch squares would invite students to stretch their legs. A small bucket of washable chalk would keep the cost low. We could draw the squares away from the doors so students can pass safely. This lively activity would give more children a way to enjoy lunchtime.

Accept other passage details when students accurately explain how the word choice helps the principal picture the spot or trust the plan. For Part 3, look for a different activity, a workable detail, and at least three precise or vivid words or phrases.