Museum of Clues

Read a model and study how colons introduce lists.

5.5.W.8 "Students will use a colon to introduce a list."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each colon that introduces a list. Underline the complete thought just before each colon.

The Desk Drawer Museum

1. On Friday, our class opened a tiny museum in the school hallway. We gathered three objects for our first display: a bent paper clip, a faded bus ticket, and a small brass key. We did not know who owned them, so we wrote labels that clearly separated facts from guesses. Each label needed a title, a clue, and one question for visitors to consider.

2. At the first table, Maya recorded what we could prove: the ticket was blue, the clip was bent, and the key had no tag. Next, we listed three possible stories: the ticket marked a special trip, the clip held an old letter, and the key opened a forgotten box. We made sure visitors could tell the evidence from the stories we invented.

3. By lunchtime, students stopped to read our labels and vote for their favorite story. We offered three voting choices: the special trip, the old letter, or the forgotten box. One visitor pointed out that a bent clip could have held almost anything. That comment gave us a new plan for the next day. We planned three changes: add blank cards, set out pencils, and leave room for new stories.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In paragraph 1, what complete thought comes just before the colon?

2. What three facts does the first colon in paragraph 2 introduce?

3. Which list in paragraph 2 contains guesses? Write the complete thought before its colon.

4. In paragraph 3, what two words come right before the colon that introduces a list of actions?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a display of three objects from a place you choose. Write two sentences: use a colon in the first to introduce the three objects, then tell what visitors might wonder about one object.

ANSWER KEY

Museum of Clues

GRADE 5 · 5.5.W.8

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle each colon that introduces a list. Underline the complete thought just before each colon. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, what complete thought comes just before the colon?	**We gathered three objects for our first display.**
2	What three facts does the first colon in paragraph 2 introduce?	**The ticket was blue, the clip was bent, and the key had no tag.**
3	Which list in paragraph 2 contains guesses? Write the complete thought before its colon.	**The list of possible stories contains guesses. The thought before its colon is "Next, we listed three possible stories."**
4	In paragraph 3, what two words come right before the colon that introduces a list of actions?	**three changes**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our kitchen display holds three curious objects: a wooden spoon, a chipped mug, and a red timer. Visitors might wonder why the timer has a tiny star sticker on its back.

For the marking job, students should circle five colons and underline the complete thought before each one. For Your Turn, accept any two sentences that meet the prompt and place a colon after a complete thought to introduce three objects.