Notebook to Quotation

Use a colon to introduce words from a source.

6.5.W.8 "Students will use a colon to introduce a quotation from a source (e.g., According to National Geographic, meerkat homes are quite comfortable: "Each burrow is an extensive tunnel-and-room system that remains cool even under the broiling…"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each introduction to a quoted notebook entry and circle the colon that follows it. Number the quotations from 1 to 6 so you can see how each introduction leads to its quoted words.

What the Lettuce Told Us

1 At our school's garden, students wondered whether a shady corner could grow lettuce. They checked the beds each morning and kept a shared garden notebook. On Monday, Imani recorded what she noticed: "The soil under the tree still feels damp, but the sunny bed has dried on top." Her words give readers a detail they can picture. Later, the notebook offered a second clue from Owen: "The lettuce by the fence has smaller leaves than the lettuce near the path."

2 The group did not judge the beds after only one day. They measured the lettuce leaves on Friday and wrote down what they found. The garden notebook gives Imani's report: "Most leaves in the sunny bed are wider than the leaves under the tree." That sentence tells readers exactly what she compared. Owen added a warning to his entry: "The sunny soil gets dry quickly, so we need to check it before watering." His note matters because plants need water, but too much water can also harm their roots.

3 By the end of the week, the students had a plan for both beds. Their teacher asked them to keep checking soil rather than watering on a fixed schedule. In the garden notebook, Imani proposed the next step: "We can water each bed when its soil feels dry below the surface." Owen suggested another test in the same notebook: "Next week, we should count new leaves instead of measuring their width." The garden was not a perfect experiment, but the notebook made it possible to share evidence and ask better questions.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Copy the complete introduction, including the colon, before Imani's first quotation.

2. In paragraph 2, which words come immediately before the colon that introduces Owen's quotation? Copy the complete introduction.

3. In paragraph 3, why does the colon come after "next step" instead of after "Imani"?

4. Rewrite the sentence with Owen's last quotation. Begin with "Owen wrote in the garden notebook", then add a colon and his exact quoted words.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A class book-swap bulletin says, "Every book on the swap shelf has a note from a reader." Write two sentences about the book swap. In one sentence, name the bulletin as your source and use a colon to introduce its exact quotation.

ANSWER KEY

Notebook to Quotation

GRADE 6 · 6.5.W.8

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each introduction to a quoted notebook entry and circle the colon that follows it. Number the quotations from 1 to 6 so you can see how each introduction leads to its quoted words. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Copy the complete introduction, including the colon, before Imani's first quotation.	**On Monday, Imani recorded what she noticed:**
2	In paragraph 2, which words come immediately before the colon that introduces Owen's quotation? Copy the complete introduction.	**Owen added a warning to his entry:**
3	In paragraph 3, why does the colon come after "next step" instead of after "Imani"?	**The words through "next step" form a complete introduction to Imani's quotation. The colon goes at the end of that introduction, just before her quoted words.**
4	Rewrite the sentence with Owen's last quotation. Begin with "Owen wrote in the garden notebook", then add a colon and his exact quoted words.	**Owen wrote in the garden notebook: "Next week, we should count new leaves instead of measuring their width."**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The class book-swap bulletin explains what readers will find: "Every book on the swap shelf has a note from a reader." Those notes could help students choose a book.

For Part 1, look for six underlined introductions and six circled colons. For Part 3, accept any two-sentence response that names the bulletin before a colon and reproduces the quotation exactly.