What Repairs Reveal

Read a writer's view of a school repair fair.

9.3.R.2 "Students will evaluate authors' perspectives and explain how those perspectives contribute to the meanings of texts."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two phrases that show the writer's attitude toward repair, circle one detail that complicates that attitude, and write 1 beside the backpack's repair and 2 beside the writer's broader claim about worn things.

The Orange Stitches

1 At our school's repair fair, I watched a ninth grader hold up a backpack with a torn strap. She had planned to throw it away, but a volunteer showed her how to stitch the strap back on. The thread was bright orange, not a perfect match. When she slung the bag over her shoulder, the patch looked less like a flaw than a badge of effort. Across the room, someone tightened a loose bicycle bell while two students sorted bent zippers into a tray. Nothing in that room looked new, and that was exactly what made it interesting.

2 I used to think replacing a broken thing was the fastest route back to normal. The fair made me question what "normal" costs. A new backpack would have hidden the torn strap, but the orange stitches gave its owner a story she could tell. Repair also demanded time: the line for sewing stretched across the gym, and not everyone could wait after school. A student with a cracked helmet was told to replace it instead of trying to fix it. Safety matters more than saving an object. Still, the crowded line showed how many people wanted another choice.

3 By the end of the afternoon, the backpack was back in use, but the fair had not solved every problem in the gym. Some objects could not be repaired safely, and some families might not have the tools or spare hours to try. That is why I want our school to hold repair fairs more often, with supplies available to borrow. A repaired strap will not change the world by itself. It can, however, change the story we tell about worn things: they are not always finished just because they show where they have been.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the writer's view of replacing broken things change, and which detail helps explain the change?

2. What does calling the patch a "badge of effort" reveal about the writer's perspective? How does that wording shape the meaning of the repair?

3. Why does the writer include both the long sewing line and the cracked helmet? How do those details affect the writer's message?

4. How does the final sentence give the backpack repair a meaning beyond one student's experience?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a school custodian writing about the same repair fair from a different perspective. In 4 to 5 sentences, explain what the custodian might value or worry about, use two details from the passage, and describe how that perspective would change the fair's meaning.

ANSWER KEY

What Repairs Reveal

GRADE 9 · 9.3.R.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two phrases that show the writer's attitude toward repair, circle one detail that complicates that attitude, and write 1 beside the backpack's repair and 2 beside the writer's broader claim about worn things. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the writer's view of replacing broken things change, and which detail helps explain the change?	**The writer once saw replacement as the fastest way back to normal but now sees repair as a valuable choice. The repaired backpack, with its visible orange stitches, helps explain the change.**
2	What does calling the patch a "badge of effort" reveal about the writer's perspective? How does that wording shape the meaning of the repair?	**The writer sees a visible repair as something to value, not hide. The wording makes the patch a sign of care and effort rather than a flaw.**
3	Why does the writer include both the long sewing line and the cracked helmet? How do those details affect the writer's message?	**The line shows that repair takes time, while the helmet shows that some items should be replaced for safety. Together, they make the writer's support for repair thoughtful rather than absolute.**
4	How does the final sentence give the backpack repair a meaning beyond one student's experience?	**The writer uses the repaired backpack to argue that signs of wear do not always mean an object is finished. The repair becomes an example of a different way to value worn things.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A custodian might appreciate the fair but worry about how much space and cleanup it requires. The sewing line stretched across the gym, so the custodian might see the crowd as a planning challenge rather than only a sign of demand. The tray of bent zippers might raise questions about sorting and clearing materials afterward. From this perspective, the fair becomes a worthwhile event that needs careful planning, not simply a celebration of repair.

Accept other text-supported interpretations of the writer's perspective. For Part 3, look for a plausible custodian's viewpoint, two accurate passage details, and an explanation of how that viewpoint changes the fair's meaning.