After the Rain

Trace how text structure explains a solution to street flooding.

9.3.R.6 "Students will analyze how informational text structures support the author's purpose."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that explains the street's drainage problem, number the stages water takes through a rain garden, and circle words that signal comparison or contrast in the last paragraph. Use your marks to trace how the author builds an explanation.

A Garden Beside the Curb

1 After a hard rain, a street corner can become a shallow pond. Pavement blocks water from soaking into the soil, so runoff moves toward storm drains. When rain falls faster than drains can carry it away, water collects near curbs and crosswalks. One response is a rain garden, a planted, low area that catches runoff from nearby pavement. Cities place these gardens beside sidewalks or parking lots where water already flows. To understand why this small patch of plants matters, first consider the problem it is built to solve: too much water reaching drains at once.

2 A rain garden works in stages. First, runoff enters through an opening in the curb and spreads across the garden's shallow basin. Some water soaks into the soil, while plant roots help keep that soil loose. Soil and plants can also trap some pollutants carried by the runoff. Next, water that does not soak in may leave through an overflow outlet or drain, depending on the design. Finally, between storms, the basin dries out and has room to hold water again. This step-by-step path shows that a rain garden slows runoff rather than making rain disappear.

3 A conventional storm drain moves water off the street quickly; by contrast, a rain garden holds some of that water near its source. Neither tool can manage every storm alone. During an intense downpour, a garden may fill, and an overflow route is needed to keep water from pooling in unsafe places. Drains, meanwhile, still carry excess water away. Comparing the two approaches shows why a city might use them together instead of treating gardens as replacements for pipes. A rain garden changes the timing and amount of runoff reaching a drain, which can reduce pressure on the drainage system.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the cause-and-effect explanation in paragraph 1 establish a need for rain gardens?

2. Why does paragraph 2 follow the water's path in order instead of only listing parts of a rain garden?

3. How does the comparison of drains and rain gardens in paragraph 3 clarify the author's message about using both?

4. Why does the author describe what happens during an intense downpour after explaining how a rain garden works?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a different community problem. In 4 to 5 sentences, state what you would want readers to understand, name two different text structures you would use, and give a specific detail for each section that shows how its structure supports your purpose.

ANSWER KEY

After the Rain

GRADE 9 · 9.3.R.6

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that explains the street's drainage problem, number the stages water takes through a rain garden, and circle words that signal comparison or contrast in the last paragraph. Use your marks to trace how the author builds an explanation. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the cause-and-effect explanation in paragraph 1 establish a need for rain gardens?	**It shows that pavement sends runoff toward drains and that water pools when rain arrives faster than drains can carry it away. This establishes why a place to catch runoff could help.**
2	Why does paragraph 2 follow the water's path in order instead of only listing parts of a rain garden?	**The sequence shows how the garden receives, absorbs, and releases water over time. That process explains how it slows runoff.**
3	How does the comparison of drains and rain gardens in paragraph 3 clarify the author's message about using both?	**The comparison shows that gardens hold some water near its source, while drains carry excess water away. Their different roles explain why a city might use them together.**
4	Why does the author describe what happens during an intense downpour after explaining how a rain garden works?	**The later detail qualifies the step-by-step explanation: a garden can slow runoff but may fill during a heavy storm. This helps readers understand why an overflow route is needed.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would explain how our school could reduce lunchroom food waste. I would begin with cause and effect, showing how oversized servings can lead to uneaten food being thrown away. Then I would use problem and solution to describe offering smaller first servings and allowing students to ask for more. These structures help readers see both why waste happens and how the school could reduce it.

Accept answers that connect a specific structural choice to what the author wants readers to understand. For Part 3, students may choose any plausible community problem if both structures have distinct, relevant details.