Books on Wheels

Use headings and details to trace a library service.

3.P.3.1 "Comprehend, evaluate, and synthesize textual sources to acquire and refine knowledge in the social studies. Summarize the main idea and locate supporting details of a text (e.g., primary and secondary sources)..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one sentence that explains why the book wagon was needed, and circle the details that show how readers borrowed and returned books.

When Books Came to Readers

1. **Far From the Library** In 1905, many families in Washington County, Maryland, lived far from a public library. Traveling to town to borrow a book could take a long time. Librarian Mary Titcomb wanted people in the countryside to have books, too. She helped start a book wagon that carried library books to them. The wagon made borrowing books easier for families who could not visit the library often.

2. **Books by Wagon** A horse pulled the wagon along country roads. It stopped near homes so people could choose books to borrow. Later, the wagon returned, and readers could give books back and pick new ones. The wagon was a moving part of the public library, not a store. People did not have to buy each book to read it.

3. **Books on the Road Today** Book wagons are gone, but some public libraries still bring books to people. Their bookmobiles may be buses or vans. They can stop at places such as schools or community centers. Like the old wagon, a bookmobile helps people borrow books when getting to a library building is hard. The kind of vehicle has changed, but the goal is much the same.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the main idea of the whole passage?

2. Find the section called “Books by Wagon.” What two details show how people borrowed and returned books?

3. Which heading helps you find where the book wagon began? What place does that section name?

4. How are today’s bookmobiles different from the old wagon? What goal has stayed the same?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a heading and three sentences for a note to a town leader. Suggest a place for a bookmobile to stop, explain how that stop could help people, and connect your idea to the wagon’s goal.

ANSWER KEY

Books on Wheels

GRADE 3 · 3.P.3.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one sentence that explains why the book wagon was needed, and circle the details that show how readers borrowed and returned books. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the main idea of the whole passage?	**Libraries have used vehicles to bring books to people who have trouble reaching a library building.**
2	Find the section called "Books by Wagon." What two details show how people borrowed and returned books?	**The wagon stopped near homes so people could choose books. When it returned, readers gave books back and picked new ones.**
3	Which heading helps you find where the book wagon began? What place does that section name?	**"Far From the Library" helps readers find it. The section names Washington County, Maryland.**
4	How are today's bookmobiles different from the old wagon? What goal has stayed the same?	**Today's bookmobiles may be buses or vans instead of horse-pulled wagons. Both bring books closer to people who have trouble getting to a library building.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A Stop Near the Bus Stop

I suggest a bookmobile stop near the town bus stop. People coming home by bus could borrow books without another long trip. Like the old wagon, this stop would bring library books closer to readers.

Accept other accurate main-idea wording and details supported by the passage. For the note, accept any sensible stop if the student explains whom it could help and connects it to bringing books closer to readers.