Path Through the Park

How neighbors discuss a shared problem

4.P.1.1 "Demonstrate an understanding of the virtue of civil discourse to analyze and address real-world problems. Explain how human experiences can shape a person's point of view about civic issues..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the experiences that shape Maya's and Leo's views, circle one respectful way they discuss the problem, and number three steps used to make a decision.

A Better Way Through Maple Park

1. After heavy rain, a path through Maple Park fills with puddles. Years ago, neighbors asked the town to add a drain, but the town had little money. Now puddles still block the shortest way to the playground. At a public meeting, Maya says her brother uses a wheelchair and cannot cross the mud. Her family must take a longer route around the park.

2. Leo sees the same path differently. He runs on the grass beside it and worries that a wide new path would remove the field where his team practices. Maya listens, then repeats Leo's concern before sharing her own. Leo asks whether a narrow, firm path could keep the field open. They disagree about the plan, but they do not insult each other.

3. At the next town meeting, residents take turns speaking. The town council compares the cost of a narrow raised path with the cost of a new drain. Council members vote to build the raised path and keep most of the field. They also plan to check the path after heavy rain. The vote does not erase every worry, but it gives the town a plan to test.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does Maya's family experience shape her view of the muddy path?

2. Why does Leo worry about a wide new path, and how does Maya show respect for his view?

3. What made solving the path problem hard in the past? What plan does the council choose now?

4. How do residents and council members help make the decision at the town meeting?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A streetlight near a bus stop is broken. Write four sentences showing how two neighbors' different experiences shape their views, how they speak respectfully, and how the town could make a decision.

ANSWER KEY

Path Through the Park

GRADE 4 · 4.P.1.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the experiences that shape Maya's and Leo's views, circle one respectful way they discuss the problem, and number three steps used to make a decision. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does Maya's family experience shape her view of the muddy path?	**Her brother uses a wheelchair and cannot cross the mud, so her family must take a longer route. She wants a path they can use.**
2	Why does Leo worry about a wide new path, and how does Maya show respect for his view?	**Leo worries it would remove the field where his team practices. Maya listens and repeats his concern before sharing her own.**
3	What made solving the path problem hard in the past? What plan does the council choose now?	**The town had little money when neighbors asked for a drain. The council now votes to build a narrow raised path and keep most of the field.**
4	How do residents and council members help make the decision at the town meeting?	**Residents take turns speaking. Council members compare costs and vote on a plan.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Nia waits for the bus before sunrise and wants the light fixed so she can see the curb. Mr. Chen lives beside the stop and worries that a bright light will shine into his bedroom. At a meeting, Nia listens to his concern and asks if a shield could aim the light toward the curb. After residents take turns speaking, the council votes to repair the light with a shield.

Accept other text-supported explanations for the short answers. For Part 3, look for two views shaped by different experiences, respectful discussion, and a way for the town to decide.