Courtyard Questions

Ask questions that help a community make a choice.

4.P.1.2.C "Demonstrate critical thinking skills by frequently developing and answering various depth of knowledge questions."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two facts you could use to answer questions about the courtyard. Circle one detail that makes you wonder what the library should find out next.

A Choice for the Courtyard

1. At the Maple Street library, a bare courtyard could become a small garden. The library asked neighbors what they wanted. Some families hoped to grow vegetables. Others wanted a quiet place to read outside. The courtyard gets six hours of sunlight on most summer days. A water tap stands near the back door. The library has money for either planting beds or outdoor benches this year, but not both.

2. At a meeting, nine people spoke in favor of planting beds, and six spoke in favor of benches. The library director noted that not everyone in the neighborhood could attend the meeting. A nearby school offered students' help with planting in spring, but it could not promise help during summer vacation. One neighbor offered to water plants twice a week if the library provided a hose.

3. Before making a choice, the library board listed questions it still had. Who could care for plants all summer? Would people use benches when school is closed? Could both ideas fit in the courtyard later? Board members agreed that the meeting showed interest, but the speakers did not represent everyone. They planned to ask more neighbors and check the cost of each option before voting.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Write a question whose answer is one fact about the courtyard. Then answer it.

2. Write a why or how question about the board's need for more information before voting. Answer it with two details from the passage.

3. Write a question that compares how planting beds and benches could serve people. Answer it using a detail about each idea.

4. Write a question about which option the board should choose this year. Answer it with a reason from the passage and a concern the board should investigate.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine the library surveys families who missed the meeting. Write two different questions to ask them, one about what they would use and one about a possible problem. Give a possible answer to each, then explain how one answer could affect the board's choice.

ANSWER KEY

Courtyard Questions

GRADE 4 · 4.P.1.2.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two facts you could use to answer questions about the courtyard. Circle one detail that makes you wonder what the library should find out next. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Write a question whose answer is one fact about the courtyard. Then answer it.	**Question: How much sunlight does the courtyard get on most summer days? Answer: It gets six hours.**
2	Write a why or how question about the board's need for more information before voting. Answer it with two details from the passage.	**Question: Why does the board need more information before voting? Answer: Not everyone could attend the meeting, and the board has not checked the cost of each option.**
3	Write a question that compares how planting beds and benches could serve people. Answer it using a detail about each idea.	**Question: How would people use planting beds and benches differently? Answer: Families could grow vegetables in the beds, while people could use the benches to read outside.**
4	Write a question about which option the board should choose this year. Answer it with a reason from the passage and a concern the board should investigate.	**Question: Should the board choose planting beds this year? Answer: Planting beds could help families grow vegetables, but the board should find out who could care for the plants all summer.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Question 1: Would your family use planting beds or benches more often? Possible answer: We would use benches to read together. Question 2: What might make it hard to use the courtyard? Possible answer: We could not visit if it closed before we got home. If many families gave the first answer, the board might choose benches this year.

Accept other passage-supported questions and answers, including different reasonable choices in question 4. For Part 3, look for two distinct survey questions, possible answers, and a clear link between an answer and the board's choice.