

Creek Clues

Identify an author's purpose and message using text evidence.

4.10.A "explain the author's purpose and message within a text;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline any two details showing how people can help Maple Creek. Circle the sentence that states the author's message. Use those details to explain the author's purpose.

Helping Maple Creek: An Imagined Example

- ① Every spring, volunteers at Maple Creek count frogs near the walking trail. Many frogs need clean, shallow water to lay eggs, so their numbers can show whether a creek is healthy. Last year, the group heard fewer frogs after heavy rain washed litter and soil into the creek. They decided to learn what could help the creek most.
- ② At a meeting, a park ranger explained that rain gardens can slow water before it reaches a stream. These gardens are shallow planted areas that soak up rainwater. The volunteers planted native flowers beside the trail and placed trash cans near picnic tables. They also asked visitors to keep pets and shoes out of the frog pools.
- ③ By summer, the volunteers heard more frog calls and saw clearer water along the trail. One season cannot prove that every change came from the new gardens, but the group plans to keep checking. Their story shows that small choices, such as putting trash in cans and protecting wet places, can help living things in a neighborhood.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- 1** Explain why the author wrote this passage. What does the author help readers learn or encourage them to do?

- 2** What message does the author want readers to understand?

- 3** Choose any two actions from the passage. Explain how they support the author's purpose.

- 4** Why does the author say that one season cannot prove every change came from the new gardens?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence mini-passage about a different shared place or thing that people should protect. Include two details that support your idea, then state your purpose and message in the fourth sentence.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline any two details showing how people can help Maple Creek. Circle the sentence that states the author's message. Use those details to explain the author's purpose. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Explain why the author wrote this passage. What does the author help readers learn or encourage them to do?	The author informs readers about ways people can help a creek and encourages care for shared natural places. Accept informing, explaining or encouraging when supported by the passage; persuasion is not the only acceptable label.
2	What message does the author want readers to understand?	Small choices, such as throwing away trash and protecting wet places, can help living things in a neighborhood.
3	Choose any two actions from the passage. Explain how they support the author's purpose.	Possible actions include planting native flowers, placing trash cans near picnic tables, and asking visitors to stay out of frog pools. These actions show specific ways people can protect the creek and frogs.
4	Why does the author say that one season cannot prove every change came from the new gardens?	The author shows that the group is being careful and honest about the evidence, even though the changes seem helpful.

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Library books last longer when readers use bookmarks instead of bending pages. A bent page can tear, and a torn book may be harder for the next reader to enjoy. Put books gently in your backpack and return them on time. My purpose is to persuade readers to care for library books, and my message is that careful habits help everyone share them.

Purpose explains why the author wrote; message states the idea readers should take away. Accept supported purpose statements about informing, explaining, encouraging or a combination. The final sentence of paragraph 3 states the message; valid action details include planting, trash cans and protecting pools. The creek example is fictional and does not prove a cause from one season of observations. The four-sentence model includes two supporting details and explicitly names purpose and message in sentence 4.