Skyline Falcon Files

Analyze how text features organize information about city-dwelling peregrine falcons.

7.RI.2.A "Analyze how an author uses text features (e.g., boldface and italics; type set in color; underlining; indentation; sidebars; illustrations, graphics and photographs; headings and subheadings..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Write 1, 2, and 3 beside the three section headings, underline each bold vocabulary word, and draw a box around the boxed sidebar. Marking these features will help you notice how the author organizes different kinds of information.

Peregrines Above the City

CITY FALCONS

Peregrine falcons once nested mainly on cliffs, but many now raise young on tall buildings and bridges. These structures resemble the steep ledges of their natural habitat. A pair chooses a sheltered ledge and makes a shallow **scrape**, a small hollow where eggs rest. In spring, adults take turns warming the eggs. City residents may spot a falcon watching from a roof edge, then diving after a pigeon or another bird through the open air.

A HIGH-SPEED HUNT

When prey flies below, a peregrine may fold its wings and begin a *stoop*, a steep hunting dive. Its streamlined body and pointed wings reduce air resistance. Researchers have recorded peregrines diving at more than 200 miles per hour in certain observations, although speeds vary with conditions. The bird usually strikes or grabs prey in the air, then carries it to a perch. Speed matters because pigeons can twist quickly between buildings when they escape.

WHY CITIES MATTER

Tall city structures can offer protected nest sites, and city pigeons can provide a reliable year-round food source for falcons. However, a nesting pair needs space from people and pets near its high nesting ledge.

NEST WATCHING RULES

Watch from a distance. Do not feed falcons or approach a nest. Report an injured bird to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator.

These actions reduce disturbance during nesting season and direct people to appropriate trained help when a bird is hurt.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the three all-capital section headings help a reader find information in the passage?

2. Compare the bold word **scrape** with the italic word *stoop*. How does the special type guide a reader studying unfamiliar falcon words?

3. What information does the boxed sidebar add that is different from the main part of the last section? Why is that information useful as a sidebar?

4. The sidebar uses short commands such as “Watch” and “Do not feed.” How does this format fit the sidebar’s purpose?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 40 to 60 word mini informational passage about an animal or place. Include an all-capital heading, a bold vocabulary word defined in context, an italic word, and a boxed sidebar with one useful fact or rule. Add one sentence explaining how one feature helps readers.

ANSWER KEY # Skyline Falcon Files

GRADE 7 · 7.RI.2.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Write 1, 2, and 3 beside the three section headings, underline each bold vocabulary word, and draw a box around the boxed sidebar. Marking these features will help you notice how the author organizes different kinds of information. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the three all-capital section headings help a reader find information in the passage?	**They signal sections about city nesting, hunting, and why cities support peregrines, so readers can quickly locate a topic.**
2	Compare the bold word **scrape** with the italic word *stoop*. How does the special type guide a reader studying unfamiliar falcon words?	**The special type sets apart important vocabulary terms, and each term is explained in the sentence where it appears.**
3	What information does the boxed sidebar add that is different from the main part of the last section? Why is that information useful as a sidebar?	**It gives nest-watching rules and an injury-reporting action. Setting it apart makes practical directions easy to find.**
4	The sidebar uses short commands such as "Watch" and "Do not feed." How does this format fit the sidebar's purpose?	**Short commands clearly tell visitors what actions to take or avoid near nesting falcons.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Visitor rule

Keep dogs away from nesting areas.

MARSH TURTLES
A **carapace**, the hard upper shell, protects a turtle's body. In warm months, a turtle may *bask* on a log before swimming away. Visitors can watch quietly from a safe distance along the path.

The sidebar gives visitors one clear action they can follow.

Accept answers that explain how a feature organizes, emphasizes, defines, or separates information, using details from the passage. For the open task, accept any accurate topic and feature use that meets the stated requirements.