Rooftop Garden Signals

Read how text features guide readers through an informational article.

6.RI.2.A "Determine the purpose of text features (e.g., boldface and italics type; type set in color; underlining; graphics and photographs; and headings and subheadings)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each heading. Circle each bold or italicized word or phrase, then write H, E, or D beside it to show whether it organizes a section, emphasizes an important idea, or draws attention to a defined word.

Rooftop Gardens for Pollinators

1 A SMALL HABITAT

In many cities, rooftops are more than empty surfaces. A rooftop garden can give bees, butterflies, and other pollinators nectar and pollen. Gardeners often choose **native plants** because these species grew in the region before many buildings were built. Native plants may provide food that local insects recognize. A shallow dish with stones can offer water, while the stones give insects a safe place to land. Even a few containers can make a useful stop during a busy flight.

2 WHY PLANT CHOICES MATTER

Some flowers have showy petals but produce little food for insects. Others bloom at different times. A garden with early, middle, and late blooming plants can supply food through much of the growing season. The word *nectar* means a sweet liquid that many pollinators drink. Grouping several of the same kind of flower together helps insects notice the plants. Avoiding pesticides is also important, since chemicals meant for pests can harm helpful insects and their young.

3 WATCHING THE GARDEN

A rooftop garden needs regular checks. On a warm day, a gardener can watch quietly for ten minutes and write down each type of visitor. This simple record can show which flowers attract the most activity. **Do not feed wild bees sugar water** unless a trained expert gives a specific reason. Most bees find what they need from flowers. By sharing observations, neighbors can learn which plants help pollinators across their city in every season.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the purpose of the heading A SMALL HABITAT?

2. Why is the phrase native plants in boldface?

3. Why is the word nectar in italics?

4. What is the purpose of putting Do not feed wild bees sugar water in boldface?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a two-sentence informational mini-section about helping an animal in a city. Add a heading and put one important word or phrase in boldface, then write one sentence explaining what the heading and boldface help a reader notice or understand.

ANSWER KEY

Rooftop Garden Signals

GRADE 6 · 6.RI.2.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each heading. Circle each bold or italicized word or phrase, then write H, E, or D beside it to show whether it organizes a section, emphasizes an important idea, or draws attention to a defined word. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the purpose of the heading A SMALL HABITAT?	**It signals that the section explains how a rooftop garden can provide a habitat and resources for pollinators.**
2	Why is the phrase native plants in boldface?	**The boldface emphasizes a key recommendation and helps readers quickly find the important plant choice.**
3	Why is the word nectar in italics?	**The italics draw attention to a vocabulary word that the text defines.**
4	What is the purpose of putting Do not feed wild bees sugar water in boldface?	**The boldface makes an important caution easy for readers to notice.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

WINDOW BIRD SAFETY
Place decals on the outside of large windows so birds can see the glass. Keep feeders **within 3 feet of a window** or more than 30 feet away to reduce dangerous collisions.

The heading tells the topic, and the bold phrase makes an important distance rule easy to find.

Accept equivalent explanations of how headings organize topics, boldface emphasizes important information, and italics call attention to a defined word. For Part 3, accept any accurate city-animal topic with a clear heading, a purposeful bolded detail, and a correct explanation of both features.