Roots at Work

Analyze how features, word choice, and structure shape an author's message.

6.RI.2 "Craft and Style Determine the purpose of text features (e.g., boldface and italics type; type set in color; underlining; graphics and photographs; and headings and subheadings). Explain how an author's word choice, organizational pattern..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two phrases that show benefits of mangroves. Circle the bold transition words, then number the steps in paragraph 2 from 1 to 3 to show how the work is organized.

Roots at Work

1. Along Florida's coasts, mangrove forests grow where land meets salty water. Their tangled roots slow waves and trap soil, helping shorelines hold their shape during storms. The roots also create sheltered spaces where young fish, crabs, and birds find food or cover. In some places, roads, seawalls, and damaged water flow have reduced these forests. Scientists and local residents are working to bring mangroves back to places where they once grew near growing coastal towns.

2. **First,** a restoration team studies the site. Members test the water's salt level and map channels that carry tides in and out. **Next,** workers remove trash and open blocked channels so water can move naturally. They plant young mangroves only in places with the right conditions. **Finally,** the team checks whether the plants survive, and it adjusts the plan if needed. This work can take years because roots and wildlife need time to return fully.

3. Restoring mangroves costs money, and a new forest cannot stop every storm. Still, supporters point to lasting benefits. Healthy mangroves can reduce erosion, provide habitat, and store carbon in wet soils. A restored shoreline may also need fewer repairs after smaller storms. For coastal communities facing stronger storm risks and rising seas, protecting existing mangroves and rebuilding damaged areas can be a sensible part of a wider safety plan in many places for the future.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the purpose of the heading, "Roots at Work"?

2. Which two words or phrases in paragraph 1 make mangrove roots seem helpful? Explain what those choices help the reader understand.

3. Paragraph 2 is organized as a sequence of steps. How do the bold transition words help convey the author's purpose?

4. What perspective does the author convey about restoring mangroves? Use two details from paragraph 3 to support your answer.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a heading and a 3-4 sentence informational paragraph about a conservation action, such as planting native flowers or saving water. Bold one sequence word, organize your ideas in order, and use at least two words that show why the action matters. Then write one sentence explaining how your choices support your purpose.

ANSWER KEY # Roots at Work

GRADE 6 · 6.RI.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two phrases that show benefits of mangroves. Circle the bold transition words, then number the steps in paragraph 2 from 1 to 3 to show how the work is organized. 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, "Roots at Work"?	**It introduces the topic of mangrove roots and suggests that the passage will explain what the roots do.**
2	Which two words or phrases in paragraph 1 make mangrove roots seem helpful? Explain what those choices help the reader understand.	**Answers may include "slow waves," "trap soil," or "sheltered spaces." These choices show that mangrove roots protect shorelines and provide places for animals.**
3	Paragraph 2 is organized as a sequence of steps. How do the bold transition words help convey the author's purpose?	**The bold words show the order of the restoration steps, helping the author clearly explain how mangroves are restored.**
4	What perspective does the author convey about restoring mangroves? Use two details from paragraph 3 to support your answer.	**The author presents restoration as a sensible part of coastal safety planning. Supporting details include that mangroves reduce erosion, provide habitat, store carbon, and may reduce shoreline repairs after smaller storms.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Planting a Rain Garden

First, volunteers dig a shallow area where rainwater can collect instead of rushing into a storm drain. Next, they add native plants whose roots hold soil and help soak up water. These useful plants can reduce muddy runoff and give insects food. A rain garden is a practical way to protect a neighborhood stream.

The heading, ordered steps, and words useful, protect, and practical show that my purpose is to explain and support rain gardens.

Accept reasonable answers that identify text features, word choices, organization, and perspective with passage evidence. For Part 3, accept any accurate conservation topic that includes the required heading, bold sequence word, ordered ideas, purpose-focused language, and explanation.