# Pieces of Persuasion

Notice how linking words build an opinion.

**3.W.1.c** "Use grade-level appropriate linking words and phrases to connect opinion and reasons."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline the writer's opinion in the first paragraph. Then circle words and phrases that explain why, give an example, add a reason, or lead to a conclusion.

### A Puzzle Table for Our Class

1. I think our classroom should have a puzzle table for free time. A puzzle table gives everyone a quiet choice because some students do not want to run or talk during a break. For example, a student who finishes a book could add a few pieces before starting the next task. The puzzle can stay on the table, so no one has to finish it in one day.

2. Also, a puzzle table can help classmates work together. One student might find the corner pieces, while another sorts pieces by color. When a piece fits, both students can share the happy moment. In addition, students can take turns without waiting for a whole game to end. A student can place one piece and leave room for the next person.

3. Some people may worry that puzzle pieces will get lost. We can keep the pieces in a tray and count them before we put the puzzle away. That way, it is easier to spot a missing piece. So I think a puzzle table is worth trying in our classroom. It gives us a calm break, and it lets us build something together, one piece at a time.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which word explains why a puzzle table gives students a quiet choice? What reason comes after it?

2. Which phrase introduces an example in the first paragraph? What is the example?

3. Which word at the start of paragraph 2 adds a new reason? What reason does it add?

4. What does the word "So" signal near the end of the passage? What opinion follows it?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a new idea for making your classroom a better place, not a puzzle table. Write four or five sentences with your opinion and two different reasons. Use "because" to connect one reason and "also" to add another.

ANSWER KEY

# Pieces of Persuasion

GRADE 3 · 3.W.1.c

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the writer's opinion in the first paragraph. Then circle words and phrases that explain why, give an example, add a reason, or lead to a conclusion. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Which word explains why a puzzle table gives students a quiet choice? What reason comes after it? | **Because. Some students do not want to run or talk during a break.** |
| 2 | Which phrase introduces an example in the first paragraph? What is the example? | **For example. A student who finishes a book could add a few puzzle pieces.** |
| 3 | Which word at the start of paragraph 2 adds a new reason? What reason does it add? | **Also. A puzzle table can help classmates work together.** |
| 4 | What does the word “So” signal near the end of the passage? What opinion follows it? | **It signals the writer's conclusion: a puzzle table is worth trying in the classroom.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I think our classroom should have a reading corner. It would make reading comfortable because students could sit on soft cushions. Also, a reading corner would give books a special place where they are easy to find. We could take turns choosing which books to put there.

Accept answers that name the linking word or phrase and accurately explain the idea it connects. For the open task, look for a new opinion, two distinct reasons, and correct use of both requested linking words.