Leave a Leaf Corner?

Find the details that support an author's points.

4.RI.8 "Identify and explain the reasons and evidence an author uses to support particular points in a text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one point the author makes in each paragraph, then circle two details in that paragraph that support it.

The Case for a Leaf Corner

1. After recess, a schoolyard may look neat when every fallen leaf is raked away. But a small leaf corner near a garden can be useful. It gives some tiny animals a place to hide from cold and wind. Caterpillars and other insects can rest beneath the leaves. Birds may search there for insects to eat. Those living things are one reason to leave a few leaves in place.

2. Leaves can also help the garden soil. As fallen leaves break down, worms and other small creatures pull bits into the ground. The broken-down leaves add nutrients that plants need to grow. A layer of leaves can also cover bare soil, so heavy rain is less likely to wash it away. These changes happen slowly, but they give the garden more than a tidy look.

3. A leaf corner belongs in the right spot, not across the whole schoolyard. Wet leaves on a paved path can be slippery. A thick layer left on grass can block sunlight, which grass needs to grow. Putting leaves in a garden bed or beneath shrubs keeps paths clear and grass uncovered. The school can protect a helpful patch without leaving every leaf where it falls.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What point does the author make about animals in paragraph 1? Give one detail that supports it.

2. How does the detail about heavy rain support the author's point about leaves and soil?

3. What two details support the author's point that leaves should not stay everywhere?

4. Besides the detail about rain, which detail in paragraph 2 shows how leaves help garden soil? Explain how.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three- or four-sentence note to a principal arguing for or against a leaf corner near the school garden. Use two details from different paragraphs as evidence, and explain how each supports your advice.

ANSWER KEY

Leave a Leaf Corner?

GRADE 4 · 4.RI.8

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one point the author makes in each paragraph, then circle two details in that paragraph that support it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What point does the author make about animals in paragraph 1? Give one detail that supports it.	**A leaf corner helps animals. Caterpillars and other insects can rest beneath the leaves.**
2	How does the detail about heavy rain support the author's point about leaves and soil?	**Leaves cover bare soil, making it less likely that heavy rain will wash the soil away.**
3	What two details support the author's point that leaves should not stay everywhere?	**Wet leaves can make paved paths slippery, and a thick layer can block sunlight from grass.**
4	Besides the detail about rain, which detail in paragraph 2 shows how leaves help garden soil? Explain how.	**Broken-down leaves add nutrients to the soil that plants need to grow.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Dear Principal, please keep a leaf corner in the garden bed. Caterpillars and other insects can rest beneath the leaves, so the corner gives them shelter. A thick layer of leaves can block sunlight from grass, so the garden bed is a better spot than the lawn. This way, the school can help insects without covering the grass.

Accept other accurate points and supporting details from the passage. For the note, look for a clear recommendation and two details from different paragraphs, each linked to the recommendation.