The Leaf Question

Trace how details support a park plan

5.RI.8 "Identify and explain how an author uses reasons and evidence 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. Circle a detail that supports each point, and write the same number beside each matching pair.

Should Parks Keep Fallen Leaves?

1 On a windy fall day, a rake can make a park look neat in minutes. But clearing every fallen leaf takes away shelter for small animals. Some moths spend winter in fallen leaves as caterpillars or pupae. Bumblebee queens may rest in the soil beneath a layer of leaves. Leaving some leaves in garden beds gives these animals a better chance to survive cold weather.

2 Leaves also help the ground below them. As leaves break down, fungi, bacteria, and earthworms help return nutrients to the soil. A layer of leaves slows the loss of water from the soil, too. That matters for garden plants during dry weather. Instead of treating every fallen leaf as trash, park workers can leave a layer around plants and trees.

3 Still, leaves do not belong everywhere. Wet leaves on a paved path can be slippery, and thick piles on grass can block sunlight. Park workers could clear paths and spread some collected leaves in garden beds. This plan keeps walking areas safer while saving useful shelter and protecting soil. A tidy park does not have to be a park with no leaves at all.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

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

2. How do the details about nutrients and water support the point in paragraph 2?

3. Why does the author mention slippery leaves on paved paths? Which recommendation does this detail support?

4. How does the detail about thick piles on grass make the author's advice more specific?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A town plans to remove all fallen leaves from a playground and the garden beside it. Write a three-sentence note proposing what to do in both places. Use two different details from the passage as evidence, and explain how each supports your plan.

The Leaf Question

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one point the author makes in each paragraph. Circle a detail that supports each point, and write the same number beside each matching pair. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What point about animals does the author make in paragraph 1? Give one detail that supports it.	**Leaving some fallen leaves provides shelter for small animals. For example, some moths spend winter in fallen leaves as caterpillars or pupae.**
2	How do the details about nutrients and water support the point in paragraph 2?	**They show two ways leaves help the ground: they return nutrients to the soil as they break down and slow water loss.**
3	Why does the author mention slippery leaves on paved paths? Which recommendation does this detail support?	**The detail gives a safety reason to clear leaves from paths while leaving some in garden beds.**
4	How does the detail about thick piles on grass make the author's advice more specific?	**Thick piles can block sunlight, so the author recommends leaving leaves around plants and trees rather than keeping them everywhere.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Please clear the playground but leave some leaves in the garden beside it. Wet leaves on walking surfaces can be slippery, so clearing the playground will help people move safely. Some moths spend winter in fallen leaves, so keeping leaves in the garden will provide shelter.

Accept other accurate passage details when students explain how each supports the stated point or plan. For the note, look for a proposal addressing both places and an explanation of two different details.