Details That Matter

Choose details that help listeners understand a main idea.

5.SL.4.b "Use appropriate facts and relevant descriptive details to support main ideas or themes."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the main idea in each paragraph, circle one fact that supports it, and draw a box around one descriptive detail that helps listeners picture the garden.

A Case for a Rain Garden

1. I think our school should plant a rain garden near the playground. A rain garden is a shallow area planted with flowers and grasses. After a storm, water from a nearby roof or paved path can flow into it. Instead of rushing across the blacktop, that water collects for a short time and sinks into the soil. This could mean fewer puddles where students line up after recess.

2. A rain garden could also give small animals a place to visit. Native flowers provide nectar for butterflies and bees, and their leaves may shelter other insects. Imagine a bee moving from a yellow bloom to a purple one while students watch from the path. These plants do more than look pretty: their roots hold soil in place and help water soak into the ground.

3. A rain garden would need care, but students could help. We could pull weeds, add mulch, and check the plants during dry weeks. Mulch covers bare soil and helps it stay moist. Our class could take turns recording which flowers bloom and which insects visit. Caring for the garden would turn a wet corner of the schoolyard into a place to learn.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which fact in the first paragraph supports the idea that a rain garden could reduce puddles? Explain how it helps.

2. Which detail in the second paragraph helps listeners picture animals visiting the garden? How does it support the speaker's idea?

3. How does the fact about mulch support the main idea of the third paragraph?

4. For a short talk about caring for a rain garden, which detail fits better: students pulling weeds or a bee moving between flowers? Explain your choice.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a short talk suggesting one new feature for your school other than a rain garden. State your main idea, give two relevant facts or practical details that support it, and add one descriptive detail that helps listeners picture it.

ANSWER KEY

Details That Matter

GRADE 5 · 5.SL.4.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the main idea in each paragraph, circle one fact that supports it, and draw a box around one descriptive detail that helps listeners picture the garden. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which fact in the first paragraph supports the idea that a rain garden could reduce puddles? Explain how it helps.	**Water collects in the garden and sinks into the soil instead of rushing across the blacktop. That could leave less water to form puddles.**
2	Which detail in the second paragraph helps listeners picture animals visiting the garden? How does it support the speaker's idea?	**The bee moving from a yellow bloom to a purple one helps listeners picture an animal visiting the flowers.**
3	How does the fact about mulch support the main idea of the third paragraph?	**The paragraph says students could care for the garden by adding mulch. Mulch helps the soil stay moist.**
4	For a short talk about caring for a rain garden, which detail fits better: students pulling weeds or a bee moving between flowers? Explain your choice.	**Students pulling weeds fits better because it describes a way they could care for the garden. The bee detail shows an animal visiting.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should add a shaded reading spot near the library. A bench would give students a place to sit with books during outdoor time. A shade sail could block direct sunlight over the bench. Picture two classmates turning pages together while leaves rustle nearby. The spot would make reading outside more comfortable.

Accept other passage details when students explain how they support the stated main idea. For the open task, look for one clear proposal, two relevant supporting details, and a detail that helps listeners picture it.