Reasons That Connect

Read a model opinion and trace how its reasons fit together.

5.W.1.c "Link opinion and reasons using grade level appropriate words, phrases, and clauses."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the writer's opinion in the first paragraph, then circle at least four words or phrases that connect a reason, example, or response to that opinion.

A Quiet Corner at Recess

1. Our school should turn one corner of the playground into a quiet reading spot. For one thing, some students want a calm place during recess, especially after a noisy morning. A few sturdy benches would give them somewhere to sit with a book. Because recess should offer more than one way to relax, a reading spot would make the playground work for more students.

2. Some people might worry that books would get wet outside. However, students could bring their own books out only on dry days. A classroom basket could hold a few donated books until recess begins. This plan would not take away running games. In fact, the reading spot would use the small corner beside the fence, leaving the open space for active play.

3. Adding a reading spot could also build friendships. For example, two students might share a funny page or recommend a story to each other. Since reading together gives classmates something to talk about, the space could help new students join a conversation. Our playground already has room for movement, so it should have room for a few quieter moments, too.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What reason does “For one thing” introduce to support the writer’s opinion?

2. In the first paragraph, how does the clause beginning with “Because” support the writer’s opinion?

3. What worry does “However” respond to, and what solution follows it?

4. In the last paragraph, what reason does the clause beginning with “Since” give for the claim that a reading spot could help new students?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Should students help choose one lunch menu item each week? Write four or five sentences stating your opinion and giving at least two reasons. Use at least two different linking words or phrases to connect your reasons to your opinion.

ANSWER KEY

Reasons That Connect

GRADE 5 · 5.W.1.c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the writer's opinion in the first paragraph, then circle at least four words or phrases that connect a reason, example, or response to that opinion. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What reason does "For one thing" introduce to support the writer's opinion?	**Some students want a calm place during recess, especially after a noisy morning.**
2	In the first paragraph, how does the clause beginning with "Because" support the writer's opinion?	**It gives the reason that recess should offer more than one way to relax, which supports adding a quiet reading spot.**
3	What worry does "However" respond to, and what solution follows it?	**It responds to the worry that books could get wet. Students could bring books outside only on dry days.**
4	In the last paragraph, what reason does the clause beginning with "Since" give for the claim that a reading spot could help new students?	**Reading together gives classmates something to talk about, which could help new students join a conversation.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Students should help choose one lunch item each week. For one thing, a student vote could show the kitchen which foods students enjoy. Also, having a say in the menu might encourage more students to try the lunch. Because the kitchen still makes the final choice, the vote would offer ideas without replacing its planning.

Accept answers that accurately explain how a linking word or clause connects the stated reason to the opinion or claim. For the open task, accept either opinion if it has at least two reasons and two different links.