Words for Whom?

Choose language that fits its readers.

8.L.3.b "Recognize variations from standard or formal English in writing and speaking, determine their appropriateness for the intended purpose and audience, and make changes as necessary."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three informal expressions in the passage. Number each one 1 if it fits its audience or 2 if it might need changing for its audience.

One Event, Three Messages

1. On Thursday, Maya's class planned a Saturday repair café at the public library. Volunteers would mend torn backpacks and show visitors how to fix loose buttons. Maya sent her friend Eli a message: "Hey, swing by Saturday. We can fix that busted zipper together." Eli replied, "I'm in!" Maya then opened a draft flyer for the library entrance. It needed to tell neighbors of different ages what the event offered, when it started, and that repairs were free. Some visitors would see the flyer without ever speaking to Maya.

2. Maya's first flyer read, "Yo, people! Our crew's gonna fix your stuff. Roll up at 10, and don't sleep on it." She liked its energy. At the bus stop, a neighbor paused at "roll up" and asked Maya whether the event was a concert. Maya kept the event details but tried a new headline: "Free Repair Café, Saturday at 10 a.m." Under it, she wrote, "Bring a backpack or piece of clothing for help with a small repair." She planned to post the flyer where library visitors could see it.

3. Before printing, Maya emailed the library director to confirm that the volunteers could use two tables. She wrote, "Dear Ms. Chen, Could our class use two tables for the repair café on Saturday? We will clean the space afterward. Thx a ton! Maya." Ms. Chen had never met Maya, although they both cared about the event. Maya reread the note and wondered whether its closing matched the rest of the request. Later, she told Eli, "We got the tables!" He knew at once what she meant.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why does “busted zipper” fit Maya's message to Eli? Use a detail about their relationship.

2. The neighbor thought “roll up” might refer to a concert. What does that reaction show about using the phrase on a library flyer?

3. Find the informal way Maya's first flyer gives the start time. Rewrite that part for a notice read by neighbors of different ages.

4. Which words in Maya's email sound less formal than the rest of her request? Rewrite those words for the library director.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two versions of an invitation to a Friday book swap at 2 p.m. in the library: a text to a friend and a notice for the library door. Use an informal expression in the text, then add one sentence explaining why you changed it for the notice.

ANSWER KEY

Words for Whom?

GRADE 8 · 8.L.3.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three informal expressions in the passage. Number each one 1 if it fits its audience or 2 if it might need changing for its audience. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why does “busted zipper” fit Maya's message to Eli? Use a detail about their relationship.	**Eli is Maya's friend, so the casual phrase suits a message between them.**
2	The neighbor thought “roll up” might refer to a concert. What does that reaction show about using the phrase on a library flyer?	**Some library visitors may misunderstand the phrase, so it may not clearly invite them to the repair café.**
3	Find the informal way Maya's first flyer gives the start time. Rewrite that part for a notice read by neighbors of different ages.	**Replace “Roll up at 10” with a clear statement such as “The repair café begins Saturday at 10 a.m.”**
4	Which words in Maya's email sound less formal than the rest of her request? Rewrite those words for the library director.	**“Thx a ton!” is less formal. “Thank you for considering our request” fits the email.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Text to a friend: Come hang out at the book swap Friday at 2 p.m. in the library!
Library notice: Join us for a book swap on Friday at 2 p.m. in the library.
I changed “hang out” because a notice for all library visitors should make the event clear to people who do not know me.

Accept other informal expressions from the passage if students explain how the audience affects their use. Revisions should preserve the intended meaning while making it clear and suitable for the stated audience.