After the Rain

Trace how a text builds and qualifies an idea

8.RI.5 "Analyze the structural elements of a text, including the role of specific sentences, paragraphs, and text features in developing and refining a key concept."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number the paragraphs 1 to 3, underline the sentence that first names the proposed solution, and circle the word that signals a shift from benefits to limits.

A Garden Built for Rain

1 After a summer storm, water rushes along the curb outside a city library. It carries bits of litter and soil toward a storm drain. When too much rain falls at once, drains can fill faster than water can flow away, leaving puddles on streets. One way to slow this rush is a rain garden: a planted, shallow dip in the ground that collects runoff from roofs or pavement. Unlike an ordinary flower bed, it is designed to hold water briefly before that water soaks into the soil.

2 Here is what happens during a typical shower. Water enters the garden from a nearby hard surface and spreads across its low center. The soil absorbs some of it, while plant roots help keep the soil loose enough for water to move through. Soil and plants can also trap some sediment carried by runoff. By giving water a place to pause, the garden can reduce how quickly it reaches a drain. The garden does not make rain disappear; it changes where and when some rainwater moves.

3 But a rain garden has limits. If a storm brings water faster than the garden can absorb it, extra water needs a safe route to a drain or another collection area. The garden also needs care: leaves and litter can block its entrance, and compacted soil may absorb water slowly. These details change the picture of a rain garden from a simple fix to one part of a larger drainage plan. Where it sits, how much water flows into it, and who maintains it all affect its success.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the library scene in paragraph 1 prepare you for the sentence that introduces rain gardens?

2. What does the final sentence of paragraph 1 add to the definition of a rain garden?

3. How does the final sentence of paragraph 2 prevent a misunderstanding of the benefits described before it?

4. Why does paragraph 3 come after the description of a typical shower, rather than before it?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a two-sentence addition to the passage that introduces a new, realistic neighborhood decision about rain gardens and shows how it refines the passage's main idea. Then write one sentence explaining what role your addition plays after paragraph 3.

ANSWER KEY

After the Rain

GRADE 8 · 8.RI.5

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Number the paragraphs 1 to 3, underline the sentence that first names the proposed solution, and circle the word that signals a shift from benefits to limits. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the library scene in paragraph 1 prepare you for the sentence that introduces rain gardens?	**The scene shows runoff rushing toward a drain, establishing the problem that a rain garden could help address.**
2	What does the final sentence of paragraph 1 add to the definition of a rain garden?	**It distinguishes a rain garden from an ordinary flower bed by explaining that it briefly holds water so the water can soak into the soil.**
3	How does the final sentence of paragraph 2 prevent a misunderstanding of the benefits described before it?	**It clarifies that a rain garden does not eliminate rainwater. It changes where and when some of that water moves.**
4	Why does paragraph 3 come after the description of a typical shower, rather than before it?	**Readers first learn how a rain garden works. Paragraph 3 then qualifies those benefits by explaining its limits and the need for planning and care.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A neighborhood might place a rain garden beside a bus stop, but it would need a safe outlet for storms that bring more water than the soil can absorb. This decision shows that a rain garden's location and drainage plan matter as much as its plants. After paragraph 3, these sentences turn a general warning about limits into a specific neighborhood choice.

Accept answers that explain how the passage moves from a runoff problem to a solution, then qualifies that solution. For the open task, look for a plausible new decision, a clear refinement of the main idea, and an explanation of the addition's structural role.