Beyond One Thursday

Decide whether the evidence supports each claim.

8.RI.8.a "Assess whether the reasoning is sound."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline facts from the library trial, circle claims about what those facts mean, and put a question mark beside any claim that goes beyond the evidence.

An Extra Hour at the Library?

1 At Pine Ridge Middle School, the library closes when classes end. The student council wants it open for one extra hour on Thursdays. During a trial Thursday, 24 students visited after school: 14 checked out books, and 10 worked at tables. The council argues that these visits show a real use for the space. That is a reasonable conclusion about the trial day, since students chose to spend time there. The council also claims the extra hour would help every student who needs a quiet place to work.

2 Yet the trial does not show that every student could benefit. The late bus does not run on Thursdays, and students who take the regular bus must leave when classes end. One council member says, "Twenty-four students came once, so at least 24 will come every Thursday." That prediction treats one day as a dependable pattern. Attendance could change with sports seasons, homework loads, or bad weather. The trial supports testing an extra hour, but it cannot guarantee a weekly turnout or equal access for all students.

3 A parent argues against the plan: "Only 24 students came, which means most students do not want the library open later." This reasoning ignores students who could not stay because they needed the regular bus. It also assumes that every interested student would attend on the same Thursday. The librarian suggests a four-week trial, recording attendance each week and asking bus riders whether another day would work. Those steps would not prove that every student benefits, but they would give the school a better basis for deciding whether and when to extend hours.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Is the council's claim that students used the library during the trial sound? Explain using the trial results.

2. Is the claim that an extra hour on Thursdays would help every student who needs a quiet place sound? Why or why not?

3. What is wrong with predicting that at least 24 students will come every Thursday?

4. Does the parent's claim that most students do not want later hours follow from the trial? Explain.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

At a school movie night, 40 students buy popcorn. A student argues, "If we sell popcorn at every event, we will raise enough money to buy new library books." Write one paragraph assessing this reasoning. Explain what the result supports, identify a missing fact, and suggest evidence that would make the prediction stronger.

ANSWER KEY

Beyond One Thursday

GRADE 8 · 8.RI.8.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline facts from the library trial, circle claims about what those facts mean, and put a question mark beside any claim that goes beyond the evidence. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Is the council's claim that students used the library during the trial sound? Explain using the trial results.	**Yes. All 24 visitors used the space: 14 checked out books, and 10 worked at tables.**
2	Is the claim that an extra hour on Thursdays would help every student who needs a quiet place sound? Why or why not?	**No. Students who must take the regular bus have to leave when classes end, so they could not use the extra hour.**
3	What is wrong with predicting that at least 24 students will come every Thursday?	**One trial day cannot establish a weekly pattern. Attendance might change with sports seasons, homework loads, or weather.**
4	Does the parent's claim that most students do not want later hours follow from the trial? Explain.	**No. Some interested students could not stay because of the bus schedule, and others may not have attended that particular Thursday.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Selling popcorn to 40 students shows that some students will buy it, but it does not show that sales at every event will pay for new books. The school needs to know the profit from each sale and the cost of the books. Sales records from several different events would help show whether the movie-night result is typical.

Accept answers that distinguish what happened on the trial day from predictions about other days or other students. For the open task, accept other relevant missing facts or evidence if the student explains how they affect the claim.