

Words With Weight

Notice how writers use different choices to shape a reader's thinking.

5.10.G "explain the purpose of hyperbole, stereotyping, and anecdote."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the statement that stretches the truth, circle the statement that makes a broad claim about a group, and box the sentences that tell a personal story. Use your marks to think about what each choice does for the reader.

Planning the Book Swap

- ① At the town library, a group of fifth graders planned a weekend book swap. Maya said the room needed enough books to reach the moon. Her friend Luis laughed, then pointed out that the library had space for only six tables. The group decided to collect books from classrooms and families.
- ② During planning, Owen said, "Boys do not enjoy mystery stories, so we should not put any on their table." Several classmates disagreed. Nia said her brother loved mysteries, and Jordan said he did too. The group sorted books by reading interests instead of deciding what someone would like because of gender. They made signs inviting every visitor to browse.
- ③ Later, Ms. Chen told the group about her first book swap. When she was ten, she brought a worn space book that she had read many times. A younger child chose it, read it that afternoon, and returned the next week asking for another space book. The story helped the students see how one shared book could lead to a new reader's interest.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What kind of language does Maya use when she says the books could “reach the moon”? What is the purpose of this choice?

2 What broad assumption does Owen make? Why does the author include this statement?

3 What makes Ms. Chen’s account an anecdote? What is its purpose in the passage?

4 How do Maya’s statement and Ms. Chen’s story have different purposes?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly four sentences for a poster or announcement about a school event. Include a hyperbole, a two-sentence anecdote, and a stereotype that is corrected, and add a parenthetical explanation of the purpose of each choice.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the statement that stretches the truth, circle the statement that makes a broad claim about a group, and box the sentences that tell a personal story. Use your marks to think about what each choice does for the reader. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What kind of language does Maya use when she says the books could “reach the moon”? What is the purpose of this choice?	It is hyperbole. It emphasizes that Maya wants a very large number of books and makes the goal sound exciting.
2	What broad assumption does Owen make? Why does the author include this statement?	Owen assumes that boys do not enjoy mystery stories. The statement shows how a stereotype can unfairly limit people’s choices.
3	What makes Ms. Chen’s account an anecdote? What is its purpose in the passage?	It is a short personal story about her first book swap. It gives a concrete example of how sharing one book can spark a child’s interest in reading.
4	How do Maya’s statement and Ms. Chen’s story have different purposes?	Maya’s hyperbole adds emphasis and excitement. Ms. Chen’s anecdote gives a personal example that helps readers understand the message.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Come to our art fair, where the hallway will sparkle brighter than a thousand suns (hyperbole, it makes the event sound exciting). Last year, I brought a small drawing of my dog to the fair. A first grader bought it and asked how to make her own picture (anecdote, it shows that sharing art can inspire someone). Some people say boys do not like making crafts, but that unfair idea is wrong because artists of every gender enjoy different activities (corrected stereotype, it shows why broad assumptions about groups are harmful).

Accept equivalent explanations that identify hyperbole as exaggeration for emphasis, stereotyping as a broad assumption about a group, and an anecdote as a brief personal story used to illustrate an idea. For the open response, check that the stereotype is clearly corrected and that each parenthetical explanation matches the technique’s purpose.