

Fixing Together

Use a community project to link reading to life, other texts, and society.

6.5.E “make connections to personal experiences, ideas in other texts, and society;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details that help you make connections. Write 1 beside a detail that connects to a personal experience, 2 beside a detail that connects to another text, and 3 beside a detail that connects to society.

The Repair Café

- ① On the first Saturday of each month, the Maple Street Library clears several tables for a repair café. Residents bring lamps, torn backpacks, wobbly chairs, and small appliances that may still have useful parts. Volunteer fixers bring tools and explain each step instead of taking over. A visitor might recognize the feeling of wanting to save a favorite object, rather than throwing it away. The room sounds like clicking tools, friendly questions, and occasional cheers when something works again.
- ② Repair cafés began in Amsterdam, Netherlands, in 2009, when journalist Martine Postma organized an event to help people mend belongings. The idea spread to communities in many countries. Readers who know the folk tale “Stone Soup” may notice a similar idea: people contribute different resources to solve a problem together. At the library, one person may understand wiring, another may sew, and a third may know how to find a missing screw. Their shared knowledge makes repairs possible.
- ③ These events can affect more than one household. Repairing an item can keep it out of a landfill and can delay the need to buy a replacement. The café also gives neighbors a place to share skills, which may be especially useful for families with limited money or transportation. Still, repair is not always safe. A trained adult should handle damaged electrical cords, batteries, or gas-powered equipment. The repair café shows how a local group can respond to waste and cost through cooperation.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What feeling in the first paragraph could connect to a personal experience?

2 What other text does the passage name, and what shared idea does the passage describe?

3 What two society-wide concerns can repair cafés help address?

4 How can the repair café help families with limited money or transportation? Use a detail from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a different community problem. Write exactly three sentences: one connecting it to a personal experience, one connecting it to another text, and one explaining how it affects society.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three details that help you make connections. Write 1 beside a detail that connects to a personal experience, 2 beside a detail that connects to another text, and 3 beside a detail that connects to society. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What feeling in the first paragraph could connect to a personal experience?	Wanting to save a favorite object instead of throwing it away.
2	What other text does the passage name, and what shared idea does the passage describe?	“Stone Soup”; people contribute different resources to solve a problem together.
3	What two society-wide concerns can repair cafés help address?	Waste, including items going to landfills, and the cost of replacing items.
4	How can the repair café help families with limited money or transportation? Use a detail from the passage.	It gives neighbors a place to share repair skills, so families may not need to buy replacements or travel to find repair help.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A community garden reminds me of planting tomatoes with my aunt. It also connects to Seedfolks, in which a garden brings people from a neighborhood together. Gardens can help communities get fresh food and create shared outdoor spaces.

Accept reasonable annotations when students correctly label a passage detail as 1, 2, or 3 and explain the connection. For the open task, accept varied community problems and texts if the response has exactly three sentences and includes all three required connection types.