

Details Build Messages

Find how an author builds a message through details and examples.

6.9.A “explain the author’s purpose and message within a text;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that show what the author wants you to understand or do. Circle the sentence that states the author’s main message most clearly.

A Corner for Wings

- ① On a warm April morning, a student crew turned an unused strip beside the basketball court into a garden. Instead of planting rows of grass, they chose native flowers such as coneflowers and black-eyed Susans. These plants can provide nectar and pollen for bees, butterflies, and other pollinators. The crew also placed a shallow dish of water with pebbles near the flowers. Soon, a monarch butterfly paused there while students watched quietly from the path.
- ② The garden does more than make the campus colorful. Pollinators help many flowering plants reproduce by moving pollen from flower to flower. Some crops, including apples, squash, and almonds, depend on animal pollinators for much or all of their pollination. Yet paved areas and closely cut lawns offer few places for insects to feed. By saving a small space for native plants, a school can give pollinators food and shelter without needing a large nearby field.
- ③ This project is not a solution to every problem pollinators face, but it shows that useful change can begin in an ordinary place. Students can ask adults which native plants grow well in their area, because a plant that is native to one region may not be native to another. They can also avoid spraying pesticides near flowers unless a trained adult decides they are needed. A few careful choices can turn a forgotten corner into a living habitat.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is the author’s main purpose for writing this passage?

2 What is the author’s main message? State it in your own words.

3 Name two details the author uses to show why pollinators need more habitat.

4 Why does the author include examples of actions students can take in the last paragraph?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Create a four-sentence announcement encouraging people to protect a local habitat. Make your purpose and one focused message clear, then add these two labels: Purpose: and Message:.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two details that show what the author wants you to understand or do. Circle the sentence that states the author's main message most clearly. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the author's main purpose for writing this passage?	To explain how a small native-plant garden helps pollinators and to encourage readers to create or support similar habitats.
2	What is the author's main message? State it in your own words.	Small, careful actions in ordinary places can create helpful habitat for pollinators.
3	Name two details the author uses to show why pollinators need more habitat.	Pollinators help flowering plants reproduce, and some crops depend on animal pollinators. The passage also says paved areas and closely cut lawns offer few places for insects to feed.
4	Why does the author include examples of actions students can take in the last paragraph?	The examples support the author's purpose by showing practical ways readers can help pollinators in their own area.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Plant native flowers along the bare fence at our park. Bees and butterflies can use their nectar and pollen for food. Ask the parks department to replace part of the lawn with plants that grow naturally in our region. A small planting can make the park a better place for wildlife. Purpose: To persuade the parks department and community to plant native flowers at the park. Message: Small native plantings can support local wildlife.

Accept equivalent statements of the purpose and message when students support them with accurate passage details. For Part 3, accept varied habitat topics if the announcement has four sentences, a clear purpose, and a focused message.