

City Falcon Watch

Independent reading with purposeful pencil marks.

8.4 "Developing and sustaining foundational language skills: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking--self-sustained reading. The student reads grade-appropriate texts independently..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Read the passage independently. Underline one sentence in each paragraph that gives its main point, then number three details that show how people support urban peregrines; these marks help you track the text's ideas as you read.

Peregrines Above the City

- ① Each spring, a pair of peregrine falcons may nest high on a bridge or office tower in a city. These birds once declined sharply in North America because the pesticide DDT weakened their eggshells. After DDT was restricted in the United States in 1972, peregrine populations began to recover. Cities can now offer the birds ledges that resemble cliffs, along with many pigeons and other prey. Wildlife groups sometimes place nest boxes on tall buildings to give the falcons a safer nesting spot.
- ② Raising chicks in a city is not simple. Adult peregrines must protect the nest, hunt, and avoid hazards such as glass windows, traffic, and loose netting. Young falcons leave the nest before they become skilled fliers. During this stage, called fledging, a young bird may land on a sidewalk or low roof. Trained rescuers can return an uninjured fledgling to a high place nearby, where its parents can continue feeding it. They avoid taking healthy young birds away from their families.
- ③ People can watch some urban nests through cameras set up by local organizations. The cameras do more than provide dramatic views of hunting and feeding. They allow biologists and volunteers to note when eggs hatch, how many chicks survive, and when the young first fly. Those observations can reveal problems at a nesting site, such as repeated disturbance or dangerous materials. By keeping records over several seasons, researchers can compare one nest with another and make better choices about protecting city wildlife.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Use the sentences you underlined. What overall idea do the three paragraphs develop about peregrine falcons in cities?

2 Why did peregrine falcons decline sharply in North America?

3 What makes fledging risky for young peregrines, and how can trained rescuers help?

4 How do nest cameras and records from several seasons help protect city wildlife?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a grade-appropriate text that you want to read. After you read independently for 20 minutes, write 45 to 60 words that name the text and pages, state one idea you followed, and describe two marks you made that helped you stay focused.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Read the passage independently. Underline one sentence in each paragraph that gives its main point, then number three details that show how people support urban peregrines; these marks help you track the text's ideas as you read. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Use the sentences you underlined. What overall idea do the three paragraphs develop about peregrine falcons in cities?	Peregrines can live and raise young in cities, but they face hazards and benefit from human protection and monitoring.
2	Why did peregrine falcons decline sharply in North America?	The pesticide DDT weakened their eggshells.
3	What makes fledging risky for young peregrines, and how can trained rescuers help?	Young birds may land on sidewalks or low roofs before they can fly well. Rescuers can return an uninjured fledgling to a high place near its parents.
4	How do nest cameras and records from several seasons help protect city wildlife?	They help people track nesting results, notice problems, compare nests, and make better protection choices.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I read pages 1 through 18 of *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park. I followed how Nya and Salva face different survival challenges. I underlined a detail about each character's setting and circled two words I wanted to check. These marks helped me keep the two storylines separate.

Accept reasonable wording for the central idea and any two accurate examples of human support, including restricting DDT, adding nest boxes, returning fledglings, using cameras, or keeping records. For Part 3, accept responses from 45 to 60 words that include all requested parts and describe purposeful reading marks.