

Sources Meet Life

Trace how one reader connects sources to lived experience.

8.6.A "describe personal connections to a variety of sources, including self-selected texts;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words or sentences that link a source to the writer's life, and number the three sources in the passage. These marks will help you notice how personal experiences shape the writer's response.

Following the Creek

- ① On Saturday, I visited the city library's exhibit about neighborhood maps. One map showed the creek before roads and apartment buildings covered much of its path. I traced the blue line with my finger and thought of the flooded soccer field behind my school. Last spring, my team had to cancel two practices after heavy rain. The exhibit did not mention our field, but it helped me see that water still follows older routes, even when people change the land around it.
- ② Afterward, I searched for a source I chose myself, an episode of a local history podcast about the creek. The host interviewed an engineer who explained that paved surfaces send rainwater quickly into storm drains. I remembered watching puddles race along the curb near my bus stop, so the explanation felt familiar. Still, the podcast changed my thinking. I had blamed the field's flooding only on unusually strong storms. Now I wondered whether parking lots and sidewalks nearby also made the problem worse.
- ③ A final source at the exhibit was a photograph taken after a 1954 flood. Families stood on porches while muddy water covered the street. I have never experienced a flood that serious, so I could not claim the photograph matched my life exactly. However, it connected me to my grandmother's stories about carrying groceries through ankle-deep water during storms. Looking at the photograph made those stories seem less like exaggerated family memories. Together, the map, podcast, and photograph made me pay closer attention to where rainwater goes in my neighborhood.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How does the map connect to the writer's experience at the soccer field, and what does the writer learn from that connection?

2 What self-selected source does the writer choose, and what personal observation makes its explanation feel familiar?

3 Why does the writer say the flood photograph does not exactly match the writer's life? How does the photograph still create a connection?

4 How does the writer's response to the podcast differ from the writer's response to the photograph?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a source you selected yourself, such as an article, poem, podcast, song, photograph, or video. Write 6 sentences that name the source and its type, describe two specific details, and explain how those details connect to your experiences, memories, or ideas.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline words or sentences that link a source to the writer's life, and number the three sources in the passage. These marks will help you notice how personal experiences shape the writer's response. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the map connect to the writer's experience at the soccer field, and what does the writer learn from that connection?	The map reminds the writer of the flooded soccer field. It helps the writer understand that water may still follow older routes even after the land has changed.
2	What self-selected source does the writer choose, and what personal observation makes its explanation feel familiar?	The writer chooses a local history podcast about the creek. Watching puddles race along the curb near the bus stop makes the explanation feel familiar.
3	Why does the writer say the flood photograph does not exactly match the writer's life? How does the photograph still create a connection?	The writer has never experienced a flood that serious. The photograph connects to the grandmother's stories about walking through ankle-deep water during storms.
4	How does the writer's response to the podcast differ from the writer's response to the photograph?	The podcast changes the writer's thinking about why the field floods. The photograph makes the writer see the grandmother's stories as more believable.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I chose an article called Why Some Trees Lose Their Leaves from a nature magazine. It explains that shorter days signal many trees to make less chlorophyll. It also describes how sugars can help create red and purple leaf colors. The shorter days reminded me that our porch gets dark before dinner during October. The leaf colors reminded me of raking bright red leaves with my uncle each fall. The article connected a family chore to changes happening inside the trees on our street.

Accept personal connections that are supported by a specific detail from the selected source and clearly explained. For Part 3, students may make different valid connections, but they should name a source, include two details, and write exactly six sentences.