

A Fair Class Choice

See how a class uses voting to make one group decision.

4.15.F “use voting as a method for group decision making.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentences that tell how the class voted. Circle the sentence that tells how the group decided which idea to use.

The Empty Corner

- ① Ms. Lee’s fourth-grade class had an empty corner near the playground. Some students wanted a quiet reading nook there. Others wanted a butterfly garden. Instead of letting the loudest voices decide, Ms. Lee explained that the class could use a vote. A vote gives each class member one chance to choose between the group’s ideas.
- ② First, the class listed both choices and talked about what each would need. Then Ms. Lee gave every student a small ballot. Students wrote either “reading nook” or “butterfly garden” on the ballot and placed it in a box. Using private ballots helped students make their own choices. Two student helpers counted the ballots while everyone watched.
- ③ The butterfly garden received 16 votes, and the reading nook received 11 votes. Because more students chose the butterfly garden, it became the group’s decision. Students who had voted for the reading nook did not have to pretend they liked the result. They could respect the vote, help with the garden, and suggest a reading nook for a later project.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What were the two ideas the class chose between?

2 Why did Ms. Lee use private ballots?

3 Which project did the class choose, and what showed that it won?

4 What could students who voted for the reading nook do after the vote?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write four sentences explaining how your group could vote to choose between two ideas. Include the two ideas, how each person will vote, how votes will be counted, and how the group will use the result.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the sentences that tell how the class voted. Circle the sentence that tells how the group decided which idea to use. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What were the two ideas the class chose between?	A quiet reading nook and a butterfly garden.
2	Why did Ms. Lee use private ballots?	Private ballots helped students make their own choices.
3	Which project did the class choose, and what showed that it won?	The class chose the butterfly garden because it received more votes, 16 compared with 11.
4	What could students who voted for the reading nook do after the vote?	They could respect the vote, help with the garden, and suggest a reading nook for a later project.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our group needs to choose between board-game time and art time for Friday. Each person will write one choice on a private ballot and put it in a box. Two people will count the ballots where the group can see. The choice with more votes will be our plan, and everyone will respect the result.

Accept answers that identify both choices, a fair method for each person to cast one vote, a way to count votes, and a decision based on the result. Students may choose any reasonable pair of group ideas.