Cooling With Words

Analyze how figurative choices shape an informational argument about urban trees.

10.RI.2.C "Analyze the author's purpose and impact of literary techniques such as hyperbole, analogy, and paradox as they appear in texts."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline comparisons, box exaggerations, and circle statements that seem contradictory at first. Write A, H, or P beside each mark to show whether it is an analogy, hyperbole, or paradox, then use the marks to track how the author advances the message.

Trees Against the Heat

1 On a July afternoon, a city block can hold heat long after the sun drops behind its buildings. Pavement and dark roofs absorb solar energy, then release it slowly, helping create an urban heat island. Trees change that experience. Their leaves intercept sunlight, and water evaporating from leaves can cool nearby air. A mature canopy is not an air conditioner, but it works like a wide green umbrella over sidewalks and homes. For people waiting at a bus stop, one shaded corner can feel like an oasis in a sea of brick.

2 City planners often measure canopy cover, the share of land shaded by tree leaves when viewed from above. That number matters because neighborhoods with little canopy can become much hotter than nearby parks or leafier streets. Yet planting trees is not a magic wand. Young trees need water, space for roots, and years to grow. The result can seem backwards: a city may need to remove some pavement to make room for trees, then gain cooler routes for thousands of walkers. Officials use such language to show that cooling requires planning, not a quick fix.

3 Tree programs also raise questions about fairness. In many cities, historically underinvested neighborhoods have fewer trees and more heat-absorbing surfaces. Adding canopy there can reduce heat exposure, but residents need a voice in which trees are planted and how they are cared for. A report claiming that a new tree will cool every problem by noon makes an impossible promise. By contrast, calling a tree a neighborhood's "slow-built shield" emphasizes protection while admitting time is needed. These choices direct attention to careful, equitable tree planting instead of simple slogans.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the phrase "wide green umbrella" help you understand what a tree canopy does?

2. What contrast does the phrase "oasis in a sea of brick" create, and why might the author use it?

3. Why does removing pavement in order to create cooler walking routes seem backwards at first? How does this idea support the author's message?

4. What response does the claim that one new tree will "cool every problem by noon" invite from the reader? How does that response strengthen the passage's message?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence informational message about a community improvement. Include one analogy, hyperbole, or paradox, and in your final sentence explain how the technique supports your purpose.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 10 · 10.RI.2.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline comparisons, box exaggerations, and circle statements that seem contradictory at first. Write A, H, or P beside each mark to show whether it is an analogy, hyperbole, or paradox, then use the marks to track how the author advances the message. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the phrase "wide green umbrella" help you understand what a tree canopy does?	**It compares the canopy to something familiar that provides broad cover, helping readers picture how trees shade sidewalks and homes.**
2	What contrast does the phrase "oasis in a sea of brick" create, and why might the author use it?	**It contrasts a cool, comforting shaded spot with a large, hot built environment. The comparison makes the relief provided by shade seem especially important.**
3	Why does removing pavement in order to create cooler walking routes seem backwards at first? How does this idea support the author's message?	**Removing pavement may seem to reduce space or convenience, but it creates room for trees that can cool routes later. It supports the message that effective cooling takes long-term planning.**
4	What response does the claim that one new tree will "cool every problem by noon" invite from the reader? How does that response strengthen the passage's message?	**It invites readers to doubt the impossible claim. That doubt reinforces the idea that tree planting helps but is not a quick or simple solution.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A neighborhood rain garden works like a sponge, soaking up some stormwater before it rushes toward drains. The garden will not stop every flood, but it can help slow runoff and add habitat for insects. My purpose is to support rain gardens, and the comparison helps readers picture how they can protect local streets.

Accept responses that accurately identify the effect of the figurative language and connect it to the author's support for planned, equitable urban tree planting. For Part 3, accept any accurate community-focused message with a clear technique and a valid explanation of its purpose and effect.