Words Along Water

Read closely to separate direct meanings from suggested meanings.

10.RV.1.D "Discriminate between the connotative and denotative meanings and interpret the connotation(s)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three words or phrases whose meanings carry feelings or associations beyond their direct definitions. Circle three words that name observable things, quantities, or processes, then write C beside each underlined choice and D beside each circled choice.

Bringing Back Mill Creek

1. At dawn, volunteers gathered beside Mill Creek, a 2.3-mile waterway that runs through the center of Riverton. For decades, concrete walls squeezed the creek into a narrow channel, and storm drains carried litter into its current. The city now plans to remove sections of concrete and plant native willows, sedges, and wildflowers along the banks. Engineers say the new floodplain will hold extra water during heavy rain. Residents, however, describe the project differently. They call the creek a buried neighbor, finally being invited back into the neighborhood.

2. City reports describe the creek's bank, current, and floodplain. The reports state that restored vegetation may improve water quality and provide habitat for birds, insects, and fish. At a public meeting, one shop owner called the planned green corridor a "lifeline" for downtown. She predicted that more shade and cleaner water would draw people to nearby stores. Another speaker warned that construction would turn nearby streets into a "maze" for several months. The meeting ended with a vote to begin work in October. Workers will first remove broken concrete near the old bridge.

3. During the first planting day, students carried trays of young plants across the muddy bank. A biology teacher pointed to the roots and explained that they help keep soil from washing away. One student said the willow shoots looked like "green flags" rising from the ground. Nearby, a retired bus driver watched volunteers work and called the creek "the town's pulse." By evening, volunteers had planted 1,200 native plants. The next month, city workers will add a walking path and signs that identify local species.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Choose two of these words: bank, current, or floodplain. Explain each word's denotative meaning in the article.

2. What does the phrase "buried neighbor" suggest about how residents view Mill Creek?

3. What does "lifeline" suggest about the green corridor's possible effect on downtown? Use one detail from the passage to support your answer.

4. How do the connotations of "maze" and "the town's pulse" create different views of the project?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly two sentences about an improvement at your school or in your community. In the first sentence, include one denotative detail, such as a number, object, or location. In the second sentence, use a connotative word or phrase to show how people might feel about the improvement.

ANSWER KEY

Words Along Water

GRADE 10 · 10.RV.1.D

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three words or phrases whose meanings carry feelings or associations beyond their direct definitions. Circle three words that name observable things, quantities, or processes, then write C beside each underlined choice and D beside each circled choice. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Choose two of these words: bank, current, or floodplain. Explain each word's denotative meaning in the article.	**Bank means the land beside the creek, and current means the moving water in the creek. A floodplain is land that can hold floodwater.**
2	What does the phrase "buried neighbor" suggest about how residents view Mill Creek?	**It suggests that residents see the creek as a familiar part of the community that was hidden or neglected and is now returning.**
3	What does "lifeline" suggest about the green corridor's possible effect on downtown? Use one detail from the passage to support your answer.	**It suggests that the corridor could support or revive downtown. The shop owner says shade and cleaner water may draw people to nearby stores.**
4	How do the connotations of "maze" and "the town's pulse" create different views of the project?	**Maze suggests confusing, frustrating construction disruptions. The town's pulse suggests that the creek is lively, important, and connected to the community.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The library will add 30 study seats near its windows. Those seats will make the library a quiet harbor for students during busy afternoons.

Accept other accurate denotative explanations and reasonable interpretations of connotative language when students support them with passage details. For Part 3, check that the first sentence includes a direct, observable detail and the second uses language with an implied feeling or association.