Seeds in Reserve

Repeated reading through syntax, context, and expression

11.DSR.A "Read a variety of grade-level complex texts with accuracy, automaticity, appropriate rate, and meaningful expression in successive readings to support comprehension..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Read the passage once silently. Circle commas and the words but, because, if, and yet, then underline one meaning-heavy phrase in each paragraph that you would reread before reading the passage aloud a second time.

The Arctic Backup Library

1 High above the Arctic Circle, the Svalbard Global Seed Vault is built into a mountainside near Longyearbyen, Norway. Its location is cold and remote, but the vault is not a museum for rare plants. It is a backup library for crop seeds, including varieties of rice, wheat, and beans that genebanks around the world have already collected. Each participating genebank keeps ownership of its own deposits. If a local collection is damaged by war, disaster, or equipment failure, the stored seeds can help rebuild it. The vault opened in 2008, and its first shipments arrived from several nations.

2 Seeds are dried before shipment, sealed in moisture-resistant packets, and stored at about minus 18 degrees Celsius. Dryness matters because water can wake a seed's metabolic processes, shortening the time it remains viable, or able to germinate. The vault's managers do not grow or test the seeds on site. Instead, the depositing genebanks monitor their samples and replace them when needed. In 2015, a research center in Syria requested seeds it had placed in the vault, after conflict made its local facility unsafe. That withdrawal showed why a backup collection must be both protected and accessible.

3 The vault does not promise that every packet will last forever. Different species survive storage for different lengths of time, and even carefully dried seeds slowly lose their ability to sprout. For that reason, genebanks periodically plant small samples, record the results, and send fresh seeds when a collection needs renewal. The mountain site adds protection, yet protection alone is not the goal. A reserve is useful only if the people responsible for a crop can recover it when circumstances demand. In that balance between long-term safety and practical access, the vault serves agriculture beyond Norway.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In paragraph 2, what words immediately after the comma clarify the meaning of viable?

2. Read the sentence beginning "The mountain site adds protection" aloud. Which word signals a change in direction, and which idea after it deserves emphasis?

3. If you first interpreted "That withdrawal" as seeds being discarded, which earlier details would correct that interpretation?

4. What does the phrase "that balance" in the final sentence refer to?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 35 to 50 word audio-guide script explaining one idea from the passage. Use either a colon or a semicolon, add two slash marks where a reader should pause, and put a single asterisk before and after two words to stress.

ANSWER KEY

Seeds in Reserve

GRADE 11 · 11.DSR.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Read the passage once silently. Circle commas and the words but, because, if, and yet, then underline one meaning-heavy phrase in each paragraph that you would reread before reading the passage aloud a second time. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 2, what words immediately after the comma clarify the meaning of viable?	**able to germinate**
2	Read the sentence beginning "The mountain site adds protection" aloud. Which word signals a change in direction, and which idea after it deserves emphasis?	**Yet signals the change, and "protection alone is not the goal" deserves emphasis.**
3	If you first interpreted "That withdrawal" as seeds being discarded, which earlier details would correct that interpretation?	**A research center in Syria requested its stored seeds because conflict made its local facility unsafe.**
4	What does the phrase "that balance" in the final sentence refer to?	**The balance between long-term safety and practical access to seeds.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Seed vaults support farms far beyond Norway: / they protect crop varieties during crises, / yet *access* lets genebanks recover seeds when growers need them. Careful storage slows damage, while regular *testing* shows when a collection needs fresh seeds.

Accept equivalent explanations that accurately use context to clarify vocabulary, references, and contrasts. For the audio-guide script, check the word count, required punctuation and marks, accurate information, and pauses or stress that support meaning.