Clues Before Reading

Use what you know to decide what you want to learn.

4.RL.3.A "Set a purpose for reading by activating prior (experience) and background (content) knowledge."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that connect to something you may already know, and number two details that make you want to learn more. Use your marks to set a purpose for reading.

The Garden Visitor

1. On Monday, Maya found a striped green caterpillar on a milkweed leaf in the school garden. She remembered a science lesson about monarchs. Her class had learned that monarch caterpillars eat milkweed and later change inside a chrysalis. Maya had also seen a butterfly emerge at the nature center last summer. She wondered whether this small caterpillar would stay in the garden.

2. At recess, a sign beside the plants caught Maya's eye. It said that the garden was a way station, a place that gives migrating monarchs food and shelter. Maya knew some birds travel long distances, but she did not know butterflies migrated too. She decided to read the sign carefully to learn why the caterpillar and the milkweed mattered.

3. After school, Maya returned with her notebook. She counted three more caterpillars and drew the shape of each leaf. She wrote two questions: "How far do monarchs travel?" and "What happens when cold weather comes?" The next day, she planned to use a library book and the garden sign to find answers. Her earlier learning helped her choose questions worth investigating.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What two facts from science class does Maya remember before she reads the garden sign?

2. What prior experience does Maya remember? How could that experience help her understand the caterpillar?

3. After Maya learns that monarchs migrate, what purpose does she set for reading the sign carefully?

4. What sources will Maya use next, and what purpose will guide her reading?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you are about to read a story called "The Missing Mittens," about a child searching for mittens after recess. Write two sentences. In the first sentence, tell one thing you already know that may help you understand the story. In the second sentence, state one purpose for reading it.

ANSWER KEY

Clues Before Reading

GRADE 4 · 4.RL.3.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details that connect to something you may already know, and number two details that make you want to learn more. Use your marks to set a purpose for reading. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two facts from science class does Maya remember before she reads the garden sign?	**Monarch caterpillars eat milkweed, and they later change inside a chrysalis.**
2	What prior experience does Maya remember? How could that experience help her understand the caterpillar?	**She saw a butterfly emerge at a nature center. That experience could help her understand that a caterpillar changes into a butterfly.**
3	After Maya learns that monarchs migrate, what purpose does she set for reading the sign carefully?	**She wants to learn why the caterpillar and the milkweed matter.**
4	What sources will Maya use next, and what purpose will guide her reading?	**She will use a library book and the garden sign to find answers about monarch travel and cold weather.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I know that mittens can be easy to lose when many children are playing outside. I will read to find out where the child looks and how the mittens are found.

Accept reasonable background knowledge that connects to the new story topic and a clear reading purpose that tells what the student wants to learn. For passage questions, accept equivalent wording that accurately uses Maya's prior knowledge, experience, questions, or planned sources.