Trees With a View

Find an author's purpose and the viewpoint behind it.

5.RI.2.C "Determine the author's purpose(s) and describe how the author's perspective (e.g., beliefs, assumptions, biases) influences the meaning of the text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline sentences that show what the author wants readers to think or do. Circle words or phrases that reveal the author's viewpoint.

More Than a Tree Count

1. On hot summer afternoons, a tree-lined sidewalk can feel much cooler than a bare one. Trees shade pavement, and their leaves release water vapor that cools the air. They also catch some rain, slowing the water before it rushes into storm drains. Because of these benefits, many cities are planting trees along streets, near bus stops, and around playgrounds.

2. However, a tree is not a magic fix. Young trees need water, mulch, and care, especially during dry months. Roots can crack sidewalks when a large species is planted in a tiny space. Some residents worry that fallen leaves create extra work. City planners should choose species that fit each site and budget for several years of care, rather than simply counting how many trees are planted.

3. I support expanding the tree canopy, but I do not think every empty patch of ground needs a tree. A city should first protect older trees, since they provide more shade than newly planted saplings. Then it should plant new trees in neighborhoods with little shade and many paved surfaces. This plan puts health and fairness ahead of a quick promise to plant the largest possible number of trees.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What are the author's two main purposes in this passage?

2. Why does the author mention roots cracking sidewalks and fallen leaves creating work? What does this show about the author's perspective?

3. What does the author believe should matter more than planting the largest number of trees? Use one detail from paragraph 3.

4. How does the author's perspective influence the recommendation for city planners?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly three sentences that encourage your school to add water refill stations. Include your purpose and one belief that shapes your message.

ANSWER KEY

Trees With a View

GRADE 5 · 5.RI.2.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline sentences that show what the author wants readers to think or do. Circle words or phrases that reveal the author's viewpoint. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What are the author's two main purposes in this passage?	**To inform readers about the benefits and challenges of city trees, and to persuade cities to expand tree cover thoughtfully.**
2	Why does the author mention roots cracking sidewalks and fallen leaves creating work? What does this show about the author's perspective?	**These details show that the author believes tree planting has real challenges and should be planned carefully.**
3	What does the author believe should matter more than planting the largest number of trees? Use one detail from paragraph 3.	**The author values health and fairness, such as planting in neighborhoods with little shade and many paved surfaces.**
4	How does the author's perspective influence the recommendation for city planners?	**Because the author supports careful, fair planting, the author recommends protecting older trees, choosing suitable species, and providing years of care.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should add water refill stations near the gym. They would give thirsty students an easy way to fill reusable bottles. My purpose is to persuade, and my belief that reducing plastic waste matters shapes my message.

Accept answers that identify both informing and persuading as purposes. Students should support claims about the author's perspective with a relevant detail or phrase from the passage.