Seeds, Steps, Specifics

Notice how clear writing uses order, actions, and details.

5.W.3.A "With guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by revising for quality of ideas, organization, sentence fluency, and precise word choice."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline transition words or phrases, and circle three verbs that show exact actions. In the margin, write a 2- to 4-word note that tells the main job of each paragraph.

The Seed Library

1. At the Maple Street Library, a small wooden cabinet holds packets of bean, basil, and marigold seeds. This seed library lets neighbors borrow seeds in spring without paying money. The project gives families a simple way to grow food or flowers. It also introduces young gardeners to plants they may not see in a store.

2. First, a gardener chooses a packet and signs it out at the desk. The gardener plants the seeds, waters the soil, and watches the sprouts push upward. Later, the gardener saves a few dry seeds from a healthy plant. Those seeds return to the cabinet, where another neighbor can borrow them during the following season.

3. Because the cabinet is shared, librarians post clear labels on every packet. Labels name the plant, list the year the seeds were saved, and tell how much sun it needs. As a result, borrowers can choose seeds that fit their yards and planting time. The careful labels also help people avoid mixing up tiny seeds that look alike.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Copy the sentence that best tells what the seed library lets neighbors do.

2. What two transition words in paragraph 2 help the reader follow the steps in order?

3. How do the words “plants, waters, and watches” make the second sentence of paragraph 2 easy to follow?

4. A writer replaces the vague statement “The labels are useful” with details. What three details does paragraph 3 say the labels give?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Rewrite this rough note as a clear three-sentence announcement: “Our class has a book swap. Bring books. Take books.” Add one useful detail, use a transition word, and use at least two precise verbs.

ANSWER KEY

Seeds, Steps, Specifics

GRADE 5 · 5.W.3.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline transition words or phrases, and circle three verbs that show exact actions. In the margin, write a 2- to 4-word note that tells the main job of each paragraph. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Copy the sentence that best tells what the seed library lets neighbors do.	**This seed library lets neighbors borrow seeds in spring without paying money.**
2	What two transition words in paragraph 2 help the reader follow the steps in order?	**First and Later.**
3	How do the words “plants, waters, and watches” make the second sentence of paragraph 2 easy to follow?	**They show the gardener’s actions in a clear order.**
4	A writer replaces the vague statement “The labels are useful” with details. What three details does paragraph 3 say the labels give?	**The plant name, the year the seeds were saved, and how much sun the plant needs.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our class book swap opens Friday morning in the library. First, place one gently used book on the display table. Then, browse the table and choose another book to take home.

Accept answers that accurately quote or describe details from the passage. For the writing task, accept three clear sentences that add a useful detail, include a transition, and use at least two specific action verbs.