Rain Barrel Revision

Notice how clear organization and precise words strengthen a model text.

5.W.3 "Usage and Mechanics 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 the first sentence in each paragraph, circle the order words, and box one precise action verb in each paragraph. These choices show how the writer organizes ideas and chooses clear words.

Saving Rain for the Garden

1. Last spring, our school garden often dried out between rainy days. To save water, the garden club placed a rain barrel beneath a downspout from the tool shed. The barrel catches water that runs off the roof during storms. A screen covers its opening, keeping leaves and insects out. This stored water can later help thirsty seedlings.

2. First, students check the weather forecast and make sure the barrel's spigot is closed before rain falls. Next, they use a small watering can to carry water to the garden beds. They pour slowly near each plant's roots instead of splashing the leaves. This careful method sends water where plants need it most and helps the garden club avoid wasting it.

3. Finally, the club records how many cans of barrel water it uses each week. The notes show which garden beds need the most water and when the barrel becomes empty. After a long dry spell, students may need to use a hose. Even so, the rain barrel gives the garden a useful supply of water that would otherwise flow away.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the first sentence of paragraph 1 help organize the whole passage?

2. Which three transition words show the sequence of ideas and actions?

3. In paragraph 3, what does the precise verb records tell you the club does?

4. What does the phrase Even so show about using a hose after a dry spell?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence paragraph explaining one way to save water at home or school, beginning with a clear main-idea sentence. Use a sequence word and a precise action verb, then reread for capitalization and end punctuation.

ANSWER KEY

Rain Barrel Revision

GRADE 5 · 5.W.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the first sentence in each paragraph, circle the order words, and box one precise action verb in each paragraph. These choices show how the writer organizes ideas and chooses clear words. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the first sentence of paragraph 1 help organize the whole passage?	**It introduces the problem, the garden dries out, which leads to the rain-barrel solution.**
2	Which three transition words show the sequence of ideas and actions?	**First, Next, and Finally.**
3	In paragraph 3, what does the precise verb records tell you the club does?	**The club writes down how many cans of barrel water it uses each week.**
4	What does the phrase Even so show about using a hose after a dry spell?	**It shows that the rain barrel is still useful even when students also need to use a hose.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

One way I save water at home is by using the cold water that runs before the shower warms. First, I fill a bucket and carry it outside to pour at the base of our tomato plants. This careful habit saves water and helps the plants grow.

For Part 1, accept the opening sentence of each paragraph, the words First, Next, and Finally, and any accurate precise action verbs. For Part 3, accept varied water-saving ideas if the response has three complete sentences, a clear main idea, a sequence word, a precise verb, and correct basic conventions.