Bats After Dark

Analyze how facts, examples, and word choices reveal an author's view.

6.RI.2.C "Explain how an author establishes and conveys a perspective or purpose in an informational text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline statements that show what the author thinks cities should do about bats. Circle facts or examples that support that view, and number the three paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 to track how the author builds the idea.

City Bats, Helpful Neighbors

1 At sunset, Mexican free-tailed bats stream from some city bridges in huge groups. People often stop to watch, but others worry that the animals are dangerous pests. This view misses what bats actually do. A single bat can eat many flying insects in one night, including moths and mosquitoes. When a colony hunts above a river or park, it can reduce the number of insects nearby. Cities should see these small mammals as helpful nighttime neighbors, not as creatures to chase away.

2 In Austin, Texas, people gather near Congress Avenue Bridge to watch one of the largest urban bat colonies in North America emerge. The bats live in narrow spaces beneath the bridge deck, then fly out to feed after dark. Their evening flight has become a local attraction, bringing people to nearby paths, restaurants, and boat tours. This example shows that a bat colony can fit into a busy city. Instead of treating every colony as a problem, city leaders can plan spaces where people can watch bats safely.

3 Protecting bats does not mean asking people to ignore real concerns. Bats should not be handled, and a wildlife expert should be called if one is found inside a building. However, removing a colony without a plan can leave young bats trapped or cause adults to search for another shelter nearby. Cities can share clear safety rules, protect known roosts during breeding season, and teach residents why bats matter. With careful planning, people can respect bats' needs while keeping public spaces safe.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1 What is the author's perspective on city bat colonies? Use one idea from the passage in your answer.

2 Which two facts or examples does the author use to support the idea that bats can help a city?

3 How does the author develop the perspective from paragraph 1 to paragraph 3?

4 How does the phrase "helpful nighttime neighbors" convey the author's perspective?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence informational mini-passage about a community issue. State a clear perspective, include one accurate fact or example, and explain in the third sentence how your details or word choices convey your perspective.

ANSWER KEY

Bats After Dark

GRADE 6 · 6.RI.2.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline statements that show what the author thinks cities should do about bats. Circle facts or examples that support that view, and number the three paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 to track how the author builds the idea. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the author's perspective on city bat colonies? Use one idea from the passage in your answer.	**The author believes cities should protect and plan for bat colonies because bats are helpful neighbors that can live safely near people.**
2	Which two facts or examples does the author use to support the idea that bats can help a city?	**The author explains that bats eat many flying insects and gives the example of Austin's Congress Avenue Bridge, where bat watching brings visitors to the area.**
3	How does the author develop the perspective from paragraph 1 to paragraph 3?	**The author begins by correcting the idea that bats are pests, gives an example of bats benefiting a city, and ends with safe, practical steps for protecting them.**
4	How does the phrase "helpful nighttime neighbors" convey the author's perspective?	**It gives bats a positive, friendly description, showing that the author wants readers to see them as useful animals rather than pests.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Public libraries should make free library cards available to every resident. Libraries lend books and many also provide internet access, giving people tools for reading, research, and job searches. The list of services supports my view by showing that libraries are useful community resources.

Accept responses that identify the author's supportive perspective and connect it to evidence, examples, organization, or positive word choice from the passage. For Part 3, accept any clear perspective supported by an accurate detail or example and an explanation of how the writing conveys that view.