Falcons Above Town

Compare how nonfiction sections and fiction scenes build meaning.

6.RL.3.B "Compare and contrast details in two or more paired literary fiction and nonfiction texts on the same topic or with similar themes, including how chapters, scenes, or stanzas work together to provide the overall structure of each text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the two section labels in Text 1 and the two scene labels in Text 2. Number them in order, then circle one detail from each part that shows how the text develops its main idea.

City Falcons

1 TEXT 1: City Falcons, Nonfiction. Section 1, "A High Nest": Peregrine falcons often nest on tall cliff ledges. In many cities, they use ledges on skyscrapers and bridges instead. The height gives adults a clear view and helps protect eggs from many ground animals. Section 2, "A Fast Hunt": After the chicks hatch, the parents hunt pigeons and other birds. A peregrine can dive at more than 200 miles per hour. The adults carry food back to the ledge, where chicks grow strong enough to fly.

2 TEXT 2: Above the Traffic, Fiction. Scene 1: Maya waited beside her apartment building, holding a box of sandwich crumbs for the pigeons. A shadow crossed the sidewalk. She looked up and spotted a falcon standing on the ledge near the roof. Its dark head turned as it watched the street below. Maya forgot the pigeons and raced upstairs. From the top-floor hallway window, she could see the bird's pale chest and sharp yellow feet. "It chose our building," she whispered. Maya's heart thumped.

3 Scene 2: The next morning, Maya returned with binoculars and a notebook. The ledge was empty, but she heard a quick, high call. Then the falcon swept past the building, clutching a pigeon. It landed near a tucked-away corner of the roof, where Maya saw two fluffy chicks. She wrote what she had seen and called the city wildlife office. By noon, a worker confirmed that peregrine falcons were nesting there. Maya closed her notebook carefully, knowing the family needed quiet space.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does a detail in Text 2 connect to the information in Text 1 about where peregrine falcons nest?

2. How do the two sections in Text 1 work together to explain city falcons?

3. How do the two scenes in Text 2 work together to move the story forward?

4. What is one similarity and one difference between the organization of Text 1 and Text 2?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly three sentences that compare how the organization of Text 1 and Text 2 helps a reader understand city falcons. Name one part from each text and explain one similarity or difference.

ANSWER KEY

Falcons Above Town

GRADE 6 · 6.RL.3.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the two section labels in Text 1 and the two scene labels in Text 2. Number them in order, then circle one detail from each part that shows how the text develops its main idea. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does a detail in Text 2 connect to the information in Text 1 about where peregrine falcons nest?	**Text 1 says falcons use high ledges on buildings, and Text 2 shows a falcon on Maya's roof ledge.**
2	How do the two sections in Text 1 work together to explain city falcons?	**The first section explains where falcons nest and why height helps them. The second explains how parents hunt and bring food to chicks at the nest.**
3	How do the two scenes in Text 2 work together to move the story forward?	**Scene 1 shows Maya discovering the falcon. Scene 2 confirms that chicks are nesting there and shows Maya taking action by contacting the wildlife office.**
4	What is one similarity and one difference between the organization of Text 1 and Text 2?	**Both texts begin with a falcon near a building and later include nesting details. Text 1 uses factual sections to explain falcon life, while Text 2 uses story scenes to show Maya's discovery.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Text 1's “A High Nest” section explains why a tall ledge is a useful home. Text 2's first scene lets readers discover a ledge through Maya's eyes. Both parts introduce the nesting place, but the nonfiction gives facts while the fiction builds a character's surprise.

Accept comparisons that accurately name or clearly describe parts of both texts and explain how those parts build the overall meaning. Student responses may use different valid details, including the hunt, the chicks, Maya's discovery, or her call to the wildlife office.