Proofread the Prairie

Read like an editor, then revise for clear Standard English.

7.W.3.B "Self-and peer-edit writing for capitalization, spelling, punctuation, sentence structure, paragraphing, and Standard English (See Language Usage for grade level expectations)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle words that need capitalization, spelling, or Standard English corrections. Underline places where punctuation or sentence structure needs revision, then write a short margin label naming each paragraph's main focus.

A Prairie Visit

1 On saturday, students at Riverbend Middle School visited a nearby prairie preserve. Their guide explained that prairies once covered large parts of North America, today, only small areas remain. The group watched monarch butterflies land on blazing star flowers. “These plants provide nectar,” said Ms. Ortiz. she also pointed out grasses with deep roots, which help hold soil in place during heavy rain. Before leaving, each student sketched one plant and wrote a question in a field notebook.

2 At the preserve, volunteers remove invasive plants, such as garlic mustard, because these species can crowd out native flowers. One volunteer said, “We was surprised by how quickly the mustard spreads.” She explained that workers pull the plants before they form seeds. The volunteers do not throw the plants into compost piles, the seeds could survive and spread again. Instead, they bag the plants for disposel. This careful work helps native insects find food and shelter.

3 After the visit, the science club planned a native-plant garden beside the school entrance. Everyone bring a reusable water bottle, gloves, and a small trowel for planting day. The club will ask the principal for permission and will measure the sunny space. Then students will choose plants that grow well in the local climate. By caring for the garden each week the students hope it will become a safe stop for pollinators, including bees, butterflies, and other animals that carry pollen between flowers.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What two capitalization corrections are needed in paragraph 1?

2. Rewrite the second sentence in paragraph 1 so it is not a run-on sentence.

3. In paragraph 2, what word is misspelled, and which verb phrase is not Standard English? Write both corrections.

4. What change in subject does paragraph 3 make, and why does that change support a new paragraph?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence paragraph about a local outdoor place. Include a properly capitalized proper noun and a sentence that begins with a dependent phrase, then use brackets or a caret to show one correction you made for capitalization, spelling, punctuation, sentence structure, or Standard English.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 7 · 7.W.3.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle words that need capitalization, spelling, or Standard English corrections. Underline places where punctuation or sentence structure needs revision, then write a short margin label naming each paragraph's main focus. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two capitalization corrections are needed in paragraph 1?	**Change “saturday” to “Saturday” and “she” to “She.”**
2	Rewrite the second sentence in paragraph 1 so it is not a run-on sentence.	**Their guide explained that prairies once covered large parts of North America. Today, only small areas remain.**
3	In paragraph 2, what word is misspelled, and which verb phrase is not Standard English? Write both corrections.	**Change “disposel” to “disposal” and “We was” to “We were.”**
4	What change in subject does paragraph 3 make, and why does that change support a new paragraph?	**It shifts from the preserve volunteers' work to the science club's garden plan. A new paragraph separates the new topic.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

After school, I visited Pine Creek Park. I walk[ed] along the trail and recorded three bird calls. At the pond, I saw a turtle resting on a log.

Accept equivalent corrections that make the passage conform to Standard English. For the open task, check for three sentences, a capitalized proper noun, an opening dependent phrase followed by a comma, and one clearly shown revision.