Migration Message

Study how a clear model uses precise details, flow, and varied sentences.

8.W.3 "Usage and Mechanics Revise writing for clarity of content, word choice, sentence variety, and transition among paragraphs. Self- and peer-edit writing for capitalization, spelling, punctuation, sentence structure, paragraphing…"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the words or phrases that link one idea to another, including links across paragraph breaks. Underline two sentences with noticeably different lengths to see how the writer creates flow and sentence variety.

A Route Worth Protecting

1 Every autumn, monarch butterflies travel from Canada and the United States to mountain forests in central Mexico. The journey can stretch thousands of kilometers, yet no single butterfly completes the entire round trip. Instead, several generations carry the migration north and south. To find their way, monarchs use the sun's position and an internal clock. These small insects must also locate nectar-rich flowers, which supply energy during long flights. Their migration links distant habitats into one seasonal route.

2 In Mexico, oyamel fir forests shelter monarchs through the winter. The trees create a cool, moist microclimate that helps the butterflies conserve energy. However, illegal logging and forest loss can shrink this protected habitat. Severe storms may harm millions of clustered butterflies in a single night. Scientists and local communities monitor the colonies each year, measuring the area covered by butterflies. This careful tracking shows whether the population is growing or declining, and it helps conservation groups plan where protection is most needed.

3 Because monarchs depend on places across North America, people far from Mexico can support the migration. Gardeners can plant native milkweed, the only food source for monarch caterpillars, and choose nectar plants that bloom at different times. In addition, communities can protect open spaces from development and reduce pesticide use when possible. One garden will not solve every problem. Still, many connected gardens can provide crucial stops for butterflies as they travel, strengthening the route described in the first paragraph.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. A writer says monarchs travel “far.” Replace the vague word far with precise information from paragraph 1.

2. How does the first sentence of paragraph 3 connect the new paragraph to the ideas before it?

3. Edit this sentence so it uses correct capitalization and punctuation: scientists and local communities monitor the colonies each year

4. A student writes, “Gardens help the butterflies.” Replace help with a more precise action from paragraph 3.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Revise the draft below into one clear paragraph of exactly four sentences. Add a precise detail, use a transition, vary sentence length, and correct all capitalization, punctuation, and Standard English errors: “our school uses plastic bottles every day the bottles make trash a refill station can help it is a good idea”

ANSWER KEY

Migration Message

GRADE 8 · 8.W.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the words or phrases that link one idea to another, including links across paragraph breaks. Underline two sentences with noticeably different lengths to see how the writer creates flow and sentence variety. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	A writer says monarchs travel "far." Replace the vague word far with precise information from paragraph 1.	**The journey can stretch thousands of kilometers.**
2	How does the first sentence of paragraph 3 connect the new paragraph to the ideas before it?	**It connects the monarchs' need for habitats across North America to actions people can take to support the migration.**
3	Edit this sentence so it uses correct capitalization and punctuation: scientists and local communities monitor the colonies each year	**Scientists and local communities monitor the colonies each year.**
4	A student writes, "Gardens help the butterflies." Replace help with a more precise action from paragraph 3.	**Many connected gardens can provide crucial stops for butterflies as they travel.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Every day, disposable plastic bottles fill our school's trash cans. A water-refill station near the cafeteria would make it easier for students to use reusable bottles. In addition, the station could reduce the amount of plastic waste on campus. The school should consider this practical change.

Accept equivalent answers that accurately use details from the passage and explain the paragraph connection. For the revision, accept any exactly four-sentence paragraph that includes a precise detail, a transition, varied sentence lengths, and correct conventions.