

More Trees

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3rd Grade Fiction

When my teacher asked me to write to the mayor, I thought about it. I thought about the changes I want. I want a new playground. We used to have a playground, but our community got crowded. They built homes where the playground was. I want a new library, too. We had a library, but it burned down. People said they needed too much money to build a new one.

My teacher said to write about just one thing I wanted. So I thought about everything. Then I chose one thing. I chose trees. I want more trees in our community. If we have more trees, the community will be cooler in summer. It will be prettier, too. And in winter we can put lights on them. That will be so pretty. I am sure this is a change everyone would like.

I wrote my ideas to the mayor. I told my family about it, too. My mother told the block club the idea. They liked it. They called a city office. They asked if they could get trees to plant on our block. It took weeks to get the answer, but then the answer came. We got ten trees.

One Saturday, the people in the block club planted them. They had to dig big holes, and that was hard work. Then they had to water them every day for a month. People took good care of the trees.

They were little trees, but they started to grow. Birds came to nest in them. Now in the morning I hear birds singing. I knew the trees would be pretty, but I didn't know there would be more birds.

I'm glad I wrote the letter, and I'm glad I told my mother my idea. I hope the mayor puts trees all over the city. We already have them on my block, and everyone here is glad we do.

Identify/Analyze/Infer Cause-Effect Relations – Fiction

Questions developed by Center for Urban Education for use by Chicago Public Schools 2008-2009.

Choose the best answer for each question

1. Why didn't the community have a library?

- a. They did not want one.
- b. It closed.
- c. There was a fire.
- d. They did not need it.

2. Why did they close the playground?

- a. They needed more homes.
- b. People wanted to make a park there.
- c. No one played there.
- d. They had another playground.

3. Why did the Block Club get trees?

- a. They liked them.
- b. They planted them.
- c. They took care of them.
- d. They asked the city office for them.

4. Why did more birds come to the neighborhood?

- a. They could sing there.
- b. They could eat the trees.
- c. They could nest in the trees.
- d. They could get water there.

5. *Write your own answer to this question. What changed because they planted the trees?*

TEACHER NOTES: Develop Students' Skills: Exercise Thinking

These questions have not been validated, so decisions about student's achievement should not be made based on their responses. They are intended to exercise skills. Recommended activities include: students work in pairs to choose the best response; give students the questions without the responses so they generate their own answers; students make up additional questions; students make up questions like these for another passage.

Answers: *You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.*

Item	1	2	3	4
Answer	c	a	a	c

Question 5 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.
The neighborhood got better.