

Lesson 19

Identifying Reasons Authors Use to Support Ideas



Learning Target



Identify the reasons an author uses to support an idea.

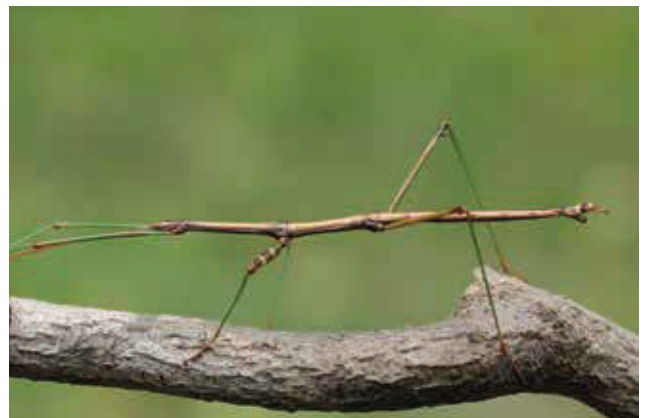
- **Read** Authors **support** their ideas with reasons. **Reasons** are facts and ideas that tell why something makes sense.

In a book about insects, an author might say that some insects are good at hiding. The author would support this idea with reasons that explain more about it.

Look at the photos and captions below. How do they support the idea that some insects are good at hiding?



Leaf katydids look like green leaves to blend in with trees and plants.



Walking sticks look like twigs to hide from animals that might eat them.

► **Think** Look again at the photos and captions. In the chart, write two reasons that support the idea.

Idea: Some insects are good at hiding.

Reason:

Reason:

► **Talk** Look again at each reason in your chart. Talk with a partner about how the reasons support the idea.



Academic Talk

Use these words to talk about the text.

- reasons
- support

Earwigs

by Jane Kinzer



- 1 Many people do not like earwigs. These small brown insects scurry up walls, and they have big pincers. But earwigs aren't as bad as you might think.
- 2 Believe it or not, earwigs make very good mothers. Many insects lay their eggs and then leave. Not earwigs! The mother stays with her eggs, cleaning them and keeping them safe. She even helps the babies hatch out of their eggs. Once they have hatched, she helps them eat. She also keeps them out of danger.
- 3 Earwigs are also not as scary as they look. Sure, they have wings and big pincers. But they do not use their wings often. And earwigs don't like to use their pincers on humans. They use them mostly to catch prey. Even when they do pinch people, they are just keeping themselves safe. The pincers don't cause any harm.
- 4 The next time you see an earwig, remember: it's more than just a creepy bug!

Close Reader Habits

Draw a star by the sentence that tells the most important idea of the article. When you reread, **underline** reasons that support that idea.

Explore

How does the author show that earwigs are not as bad as they might seem?



I need to look for reasons that explain the most important idea.

Think

- 1 Read the idea you identified. Then write the reasons the author uses to support that idea.

Idea: Earwigs are not as bad as they seem.

Reason:

Reason:

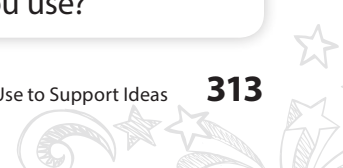
Talk

- 2 After reading the article, do you agree with the idea that earwigs are not as bad as they seem? Talk with a partner and tell why.

 **Write**

- 3 **Short Response** Why don't people have to worry about the earwig's pincers? In your answer, use the reasons you found. Write your answer in the space on page 316.

HINT Reread paragraph 3. What reasons can you use?



Soldier Bees

by Melissa Maron



- 1 We could learn a lot about working together from honeybees. There are three types of bees in a hive. They all do different jobs to help make their hive a home. The queen bee lays eggs. Drones are the fathers. And worker bees do everything else. They clean the hive, feed the young, and find nectar. In South America, some honeybees have added a new kind of worker: the soldier bee.
- 2 Soldier bees stay at the opening of the hive to protect it from robber bees. Robber bees like to steal the honey from other hives. In most hives, the worker bees stand guard for only one or two days. Then they fly off to do other jobs. But soldier bees are different. They spend their whole lives defending the hive from other insects. They are very good at keeping the other bees safe. The soldier bees are some of nature's tiny heroes.

Close Reader Habits

What is the important idea in paragraph 1 and paragraph 2?

Underline the important idea in each paragraph.



I'm going to look for reasons that support the idea I underlined.

Think

- 1 What important idea about honeybees does the author tell about in paragraph 1?
 - A All the bees work to make their hive a home.
 - B The three types of bees are queen, drone, and worker.
 - C Robber bees like to steal honey from other bees.
 - D Soldier bees are a special kind of worker bee.

- 2 What reason does the author give to support the idea about honeybees she tells about in paragraph 1?
 - A Robber bees like to steal honey from hives.
 - B Each type of bee in a hive does a different job.
 - C Some bees have added a new kind of worker.
 - D Soldier bees are different from worker bees.

Talk

- 3 The author writes that soldier bees are different from worker bees. What two reasons in the passage support this idea?

Write

- 4 **Short Response** Write about how soldier bees are different from worker bees. Write your answer in the space on page 317.

HINT In your answer, use reasons that you just talked about.





Write Use the space below to write your answer to the question on page 313.

Earwigs

3 Short Response Why don't people have to worry about the earwig's pincers? In your answer, use the reasons you found.

HINT Reread paragraph 3. What reasons can you use?



Don't forget to check your writing.



Write Use the space below to write your answer to the question on page 315.

Soldier Bees

HINT In your answer, use reasons that you just talked about.

- 4 Short Response** Write about how soldier bees are different from worker bees.

Check Your Writing

- Did you read the question carefully?
- Can you say the question in your own words?
- Did you use proof from the text in your answer?
- Are your ideas in a good, clear order?
- Did you answer in full sentences?
- Did you check your spelling, capital letters, and periods?



WORDS TO KNOW

As you read, look inside, around, and beyond these words to figure out what they mean.

- millions
- prehistoric
- wingspans



BUGS!

Nature's Time Machine

by Nicole Linden

- 1 Have you ever wondered what insects looked like millions of years ago? They probably looked nothing like insects do today, right?
- 2 Not so fast. Insects long ago looked a lot like insects today. One kind of bug, the cockroach, has hardly changed at all. It still has a flat body and legs built for running. It still eats many different things, both living and dead. Cockroaches are built in a way that works well for them. In fact, cockroaches might stay the way they are for many more millions of years.
- 3 Other insects have changed a lot in some ways, and not so much in others. Prehistoric dragonflies looked much like they do today. They had long, thin bodies and two sets of wide wings.



Cockroaches have changed very little over time.

4 But there was one big difference: dragonflies a long time ago were much larger. They had wingspans of up to two feet long. This means that a dragonfly could be as big as a dog! That could cause problems for people today. We are lucky that today's insects are mostly smaller than they once were.

5 Scientists think that many insects have not changed much because they haven't needed to. They were still able to find food and shelter as the world changed. So they didn't need to change themselves.

6 The next time you see an insect squirming in a garden, don't say "Eww!" Instead, look at it closely. You might just be looking into the far-off past!



Long ago, dragonflies had wingspans about as long as your arm!

Think Use what you learned from reading “Bugs: Nature’s Time Machine” to respond to these questions.

1 This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then answer Part B.

Part A

What is the most important idea about cockroaches the author tells about?

- A** Cockroaches have hardly changed at all.
- B** Cockroaches have flat bodies and legs that are good for running.
- C** Cockroaches eat many different things.
- D** Cockroaches used to be much larger.

Part B

What are **two** reasons the writer gives to support the idea you chose in Part A?

- _____

- _____

2 The author says that insects today look a lot like they did millions of years ago. Which **three** facts support this idea?

- A** Dragonflies from long ago could be as big as a dog.
- B** Today's cockroach still has a flat body.
- C** Prehistoric dragonflies had long, thin bodies.
- D** Cockroaches are built for running.
- E** Ancient dragonflies had wingspans of up to two feet.
- F** Most insects today are much smaller than they once were.

3 Reread paragraph 5. What important idea does this sentence from paragraph 5 support?

They were still able to find food and shelter as the world changed.

- A** Insects haven't changed much because they haven't needed to.
- B** Some insects have changed a lot in some ways and not so much in other ways.
- C** Insects long ago looked a lot like insects today.
- D** Cockroaches are built in a way that works well for them.

- 4** Use the dictionary entry to answer the question.

shelter (shel' ter) *n.* **1.** something that protects from weather or danger *v.* **2.** to shield or hide *n.* **3.** a refuge *n.* **4.** a place for poor or homeless to stay for a while

Which meaning matches how “shelter” is used in this sentence?

They were still able to find food and shelter as the world changed.

- A meaning 1
 - B meaning 2
 - C meaning 3
 - D meaning 4
- 5** What sentence **best** describes the most important idea of the entire article?
- A Cockroaches and dragonflies have survived for millions of years.
 - B Insects haven't changed much since prehistoric times.
 - C Insects are built in ways that allow them to survive.
 - D Insects today are smaller and weaker than they once were.



Write Why does the author think it's a good idea to look at insects closely?

- 6 Plan Your Response** Reread the text and underline details that tell you what insects were like millions of years ago and today.
- 7 Short Response** Identify the reasons the author gives to support her idea that it's good to look at insects closely. Use details from the text in your answer.
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Learning Target

Why is it important to identify and understand the reasons an author uses to support an important idea?
