

Fall Paragraph Focus

Name: _____ Date: _____

Underline the topic sentence. Cross out the detail that relates to the topic but does not support the focus. On the line, explain how that detail shifts the focus.

1. A Cozy Reading Corner

(1) A few small changes can make a reading corner more physically comfortable on chilly fall afternoons. (2) A thick blanket keeps the reader warm while sitting still for a long time. (3) A cushion behind the reader's back makes a firm chair easier to sit in. (4) Orange pillow covers give the chair a cheerful autumn appearance. (5) Moving the chair away from a drafty window keeps cold air from reaching the reader. (6) A soft rug provides a warm place to rest bare feet.

Explain: _____

2. A Costume on a Budget

(1) Reusing items from home can lower the cost of making a Halloween costume. (2) An old shirt can serve as a pirate shirt, leaving fewer pieces to buy. (3) Rolling the shirt's sleeves above the elbows allows the pirate to move more freely. (4) A belt from a family member's closet can replace one sold at a costume shop. (5) An empty cereal box can supply cardboard for a sword at no extra cost. (6) Leftover face paint from last year can save another purchase.

Explain: _____

3. The Pumpkin Painting Station

(1) A carefully arranged pumpkin painting station can keep supplies within easy reach. (2) A cup of brushes beside each seat lets painters switch brushes without standing up. (3) Small paint bottles placed between partners allow both artists to reach the colors. (4) Paper towels set beside each pumpkin are ready whenever a painter needs to wipe a brush. (5) A plastic cover beneath the pumpkins protects the tabletop from colorful stains. (6) A shallow basket near each painter holds sponges that would otherwise be across the room.

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4. A Welcoming Fall Festival

(1) Well-designed signs can help visitors find activities at a school fall festival. (2) Matching leaf borders around the signs give the festival a consistent autumn look. (3) Large lettering makes activity names readable from the far end of a hallway. (4) Arrows beside those names show which direction visitors should turn. (5) Placing signs above the crowd keeps the directions visible when the hallway fills. (6) Using the same activity names on signs and maps helps visitors recognize their destinations.

Explain: _____

5. A Spooky Story Read-Aloud

(1) A reader can change the delivery of a Halloween story to build suspense. (2) A long pause before a door opens leaves listeners waiting to discover what is behind it. (3) A whisper as footsteps approach makes the unseen visitor seem more mysterious. (4) A silly voice for a friendly ghost gives listeners a reason to laugh. (5) A quickening pace during an escape makes the danger feel more urgent. (6) A sudden loud word after a quiet passage makes a surprise more startling.

Explain: _____

6. Ready for a Cozy Movie Night

(1) Preparing the room before a fall movie starts can keep viewers from interrupting the show. (2) Leaving blankets at each seat prevents trips down the hallway to get something warm. (3) Putting filled snack bowls within reach keeps viewers from leaving for the kitchen. (4) Testing the speakers beforehand avoids stopping the movie to fix a sound problem. (5) Clearing a path to each seat lets late arrivals enter without asking anyone to move. (6) Arranging the blankets in matching fall colors gives the seats a coordinated seasonal look.

Explain: _____