



THE WRITING ACADEMY, LLC®



Module 3

Reason/Way — The First Branch of the Tree



Grade 3 • Cluster 2

Magnify. Collect. Group. Name. — Growing the First Branch



★ Meet Our Week!

Module Slide 1 • Module 3

★ Daily Deck

I Will...

- Magnify the passage to find many details.
- Put details that belong together into the same basket.
- Give each basket a name.
- Turn each basket name into a reason or way statement.

I Can...

- Find details in a passage that connect to my thesis.
- Sort details into groups that make sense.
- Name what a group of details has in common.
- **Write three reasons** that are different from each other.

★ Sorting Challenge!

Day 1 • Gather



“I am holding up six classroom objects. In fifteen seconds, tell me two groups these could go into.”

Yesterday we grew the trunk — our thesis. But a tree cannot grow tall with only a trunk. Today we grow the first branch!

What did you use to decide which group each object belonged in? — what they had in common!

★ Magnify. Collect. Group. Name.

Day 1 • Reveal

MAGNIFY

Read closely and collect details from the passage.

COLLECT

Gather more details than you will use before choosing.

GROUP

Place related ideas into the same basket.

NAME

The basket name becomes a reason or way statement.

Trunk = THESIS • Branch 1 = REASON / WAY



Let's Magnify Together!

Day 1 • Reveal (cont.)

Prompt: Explain why Laura Ingalls Wilder's stories help readers understand history.

I collect: *families traveling by wagon • building homes • growing food • cold winters • helping neighbors* — that's five details, and I could find more!

That's five collected details — now we group them into baskets.

★ Watch Me Build It!

Day 1 • Reveal (cont.)

BASKET
1 Frontier Life — wagon travel,
moving

BASKET
2 Daily Work — homes, growing
food

BASKET
3 Family & Community — helping
neighbors

Naming the basket

Building homes and growing food are both jobs done every day, so I will not name that basket Homes — I will name it **Daily Work**, because that name fits every card inside it.

Reason from Basket 1: One reason is that Laura's stories show what frontier travel was like.

★ Basket Builder!

Day 2 • Attempt

How to Play

1. Spread all 14 detail cards face up.
2. Take turns: pick a card, read it aloud, say which basket it belongs in and why.
3. Group agrees or disagrees and decides together.
4. Name each basket once all cards are placed.

With Your Team...

Choose your **Pencil Guy** marker. Move it forward one space every time your group agrees on a card — then sort both the Wilder and Garza passages!

★ Let's Talk About It!

Day 3 • Discuss

Why do we group ideas into baskets?

Student Directions

"Compare two groups' basket names. Different words, same cards — how can both be correct?"

MAGNIFY → **find details**

GROUP → **baskets, not paragraphs**

NAME → **fits every card**

★ One Reason or Two?

Day 3 • Discuss (cont.)

A student writes: "She helped people" and "She made things better." Are those two reasons, or one? Defend your answer.

Two reasons must be distinct — if one could replace the other, that's one reason written twice, not two.

≡ Build Your Own Baskets!

Day 3 • Use Again (Independent Practice) — Interactive Notebook

Prompt: Explain how Carmen Lomas Garza's artwork tells stories about family life.

1

Magnify the passage. Draw three baskets in your notebook.

2

Put at least two details in each basket, then name each basket.

3

Write one reason statement for each basket.

Answers may vary — model baskets: Family Cooking Traditions • Holiday Celebrations • Daily Community Life.

© My Tree Has Branches!

Day 4 • Award & Target

You took many small ideas and organized them into clear groups — your tree is growing three branches!

My Target

Next time I will... look for details before writing reasons, group ideas carefully, and check that each basket has a clear topic.

Exit Ticket

Day 5 • Explain to Others

Explain why Laura Ingalls Wilder's books continue to inspire readers.

List 3 details • group 2 into a basket • name the basket • write one reason statement • explain why the two details belong together.

★ Guided Basket Sort

Small-Group Support

BASKET ONE

Family traditions — named for you.

BASKET TWO

Left unnamed — the group names it after sorting.

"My card says _____. It belongs in the _____ basket because _____." Only two baskets today — two is enough to learn the move.

② Master Basket Challenge

Enrichment • Independent, then partner-shared

Read both high-stamina passages and collect at least four details from each.

Build three baskets that each hold details from BOTH Wilder and Garza.

Name each basket, write a reason for each, and defend it to a partner.

✓ My Progress Tracker

Directions

This tracker is for YOU! Rate each skill: magnify a passage • group details into baskets • name a basket so it fits every detail • write three distinct reasons • check every reason supports my thesis.

A rating without proof is a guess — write your proof!

Let's Look at an Answer!

Prompt: Explain how Carmen Lomas Garza's artwork tells stories about family life.

LOW

"Reason 1: Garza paints. Reason 2: Garza paints families. Reason 3: Garza paints good pictures."

What's working: Three separate statements, on topic.

What's missing: Reasons 1 and 2 say the same thing, and Reason 3 is an opinion, not a category from the passage.

Let's Look at Another Answer!

Prompt: Explain how Carmen Lomas Garza's artwork tells stories about family life.

MEDIUM

"Reason 1: Garza's paintings show cooking traditions. Reason 2: Her artwork shows holidays. Reason 3: She uses bright colors."

What's working: Reasons 1 and 2 are distinct, drawn from the passage, and each names a real category.

What's missing: Reason 3 is about how she paints, not what her artwork shows — it doesn't fit the same thesis.

Our Strongest Answer!

Prompt: Explain how Carmen Lomas Garza's artwork tells stories about family life.

HIGH

"Reason 1: Garza's paintings show family cooking traditions. Reason 2: Her artwork shows holiday celebrations. Reason 3: Her paintings show ordinary community life."

What's working: All three reasons are distinct, come from different parts of the passage, and all support the same thesis about family life. This is our Module 3 target!