



THE WRITING ACADEMY®, LLC



Module 3

Reason/Way (The First Branch of the Tree)

Grade 3 · Cluster 2

Tackling TEKS · Reading & Writing

3.11B(i) · 3.12B · 3.12B(i) · 3.12B(ii) · 3.12B(iii)



★ Meet Our Week!

Medium stamina

★ Daily Deck

I Will...

- I will magnify the passage to find many details.
- I will put details that belong together into the same basket.
- I will give each basket a name.
- I will turn each basket name into a reason or way statement.

I Can...

- I can find details in a passage that connect to my thesis (central idea).
- I can sort details into groups that make sense.
- I can name what a group of details has in common.
- I can write three reasons that are different from each other.



Reason/Way (The First Branch of the Tree)

Day 1 · Gather & Reveal

★ Daily Deck

Laura Ingalls Wilder, Carmen Lomas Garza

informational text

How does a writer turn a prompt into a sentence that gives the reader the answer?

Stand tall like a tree. Today we are building the first branch, which holds your reasons or ways.

Without sorted details, your branch has no support.



Dot the Tricky Words

Day 1 · Gather & Reveal

★ Daily Deck

D

Dot

Place a small dot above any word you are not sure about yet.

O

Discover

Discover the meaning as we learn together through our lessons.

T

Drop

Erase the dot once you know what the word means.

A little dot above a word means:
“I’m not sure about this word yet.”

Dot the word. Discover the meaning. Drop the dot, then celebrate when you own it!



Basket Sort Model

Day 1 · Reveal

★ Daily Deck

1

Frontier Life

Noun of importance: topic from
the prompt

2

Daily Work

Verb of importance: action from
the prompt

3

Family and Community

Student answer: new meaning
from the passage

A basket name must fit every card inside it.

The baskets are the twigs that hold the reason statements.

★ Wilder WHY Reason Model

Day 1 · Reveal (cont.)

★ Daily Deck

Three Parts of a Thesis (central idea)

Noun of importance: topic from the prompt

Verb of importance: action from the prompt

Student answer: new meaning from the passage

Watch Me!

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

Model: Laura Ingalls Wilder's stories help readers understand history because they describe daily life on the prairie.

Your thesis (central idea) needs support.

★ Basket Builder Directions

Day 2 · Attempt · Partner Game

★ Daily Deck

Laura Ingalls Wilder, Carmen Lomas Garza

How to Play

- 1 Groups spread out the fourteen detail cards face up on their desk.
- 2 Students move cards into three groups that share a common topic or idea.
- 3 Each group writes a name for every basket that covers all cards inside it.
- 4 Groups compare their baskets to the anchor chart and adjust if needed.

Success Check: *Verify that the name accurately describes all items.*

With Your Partner

Task Card

Cards: gathered firewood, cared for animals, planted gardens, prepared meals.

Answer

Daily Work / Chores

Which details belong in the same basket?

Compare your REASON and WAY statements.

How does the clue word help you choose the correct starter?

If two reasons say the same thing in different words, what must you do?

Defend whether a sample is a distinct reason or a restatement.

Student Directions: “Invite students to describe two different ways their family spends time together.”



Reason Statement Builder

Day 3 · Discuss (cont.)

★ Daily Deck

Which details belong in the same basket?

**magnify the
passage**

**find details that belong
together**

**name the
basket**

**write a reason
statement**

A longer passage may bring more dots; you are noticing where ideas connect.



Try It On Your Own!

Day 3 · Use (Independent Practice) · Interactive Notebook

1

have students review their thesis (central idea) and identify the clue word.

2

students sort detail cards into three baskets that support the thesis (central idea).

3

students name each basket and write one reason or way statement per basket.

students check that no two baskets overlap and that each statement is a complete sentence.

★ Award & Target!

Day 4 · Award & Target

★ Daily Deck

Award 🏆

Underline the basket names in green.

- identify the words that name a category
- identify the passage detail that supports it
- draw a branch and underline their own basket names in green

Target 🎯

Next time I will.

Curiosity Questions

Invite students to consider how distinct reason statements support the thesis (central idea) and keep a writer focused.



Exit Ticket

Day 5 · Educate & Explain to Others

★ Daily Deck

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

Have students write the complete thesis (central idea) as one sentence.

You grew the first branch of your writing tree. You sorted details into baskets and turned them into reasons that support your thesis (central idea).



Intervention: Name the Thinking

★ Daily Deck

Small-Group Support

give each student a frame strip and read it aloud while the student tracks with a finger.

Laura Ingalls Wilder's stories help readers understand history because _____.

Carmen Lomas Garza preserves cultural traditions through _____.

students say their original reason aloud before writing.

Your frame gives you the beginning.

Your job is to name what these details have in common.



Enrichment: Connect Across Texts

Enrichment · Write in your notebook

Double Thesis (central idea) Challenge: synthesize both passages in one central idea.

Explain how Laura Ingalls Wilder and Carmen Lomas Garza both tell stories about everyday life.

Have students reread both passages and identify a shared idea.

Require a thesis (central idea) that is true of both sources.

Have students rewrite with a stronger preposition.

★ My Progress Tracker

This tracker is for **YOU!** As you read and write this week, look at each skill. If you can do it all by yourself, color in the box that matches how you feel. Be honest, this helps you see how much you are growing!

I Can...	Not Yet	Getting It	Demonstrated Independently
Magnifies the passage to find relevant details.	Not Yet	Getting It	Demonstrated Independently
Sorts details into groups that make sense.	Not Yet	Getting It	Demonstrated Independently
Names a category for each group of details.	Not Yet	Getting It	Demonstrated Independently
Writes a reason statement for each basket.	Not Yet	Getting It	Demonstrated Independently
Ensures reasons are distinct from one another.	Not Yet	Getting It	Demonstrated Independently
Selects evidence that directly supports the reason.	Not Yet	Getting It	Demonstrated Independently
Connects the reason back to the thesis (central idea).	Not Yet	Getting It	Demonstrated Independently
Uses transition words from the REASONS and WAYS charts.	Not Yet	Getting It	Demonstrated Independently
Revises a reason statement to improve clarity or word choice.	Not Yet	Getting It	Demonstrated Independently



Citizenship Connection

Good Citizens · Our Community & Country

★ Respect for cultural heritage

Use the passages to connect literacy with respect for family histories, shared culture, and community memory.

Reflect & Discuss

Ask how stories and artwork help a community remember its history.

Let's Look at an Answer!

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

LOW

Carmen Lomas Garza painted family traditions.

What Is Working: The student identifies a specific topic from the passage related to the thesis (central idea).

What Needs Improvement: The response lacks a subordinator and does not connect the detail to the main claim.

Let's Look at Another Answer!

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

MEDIUM

Carmen Lomas Garza painted everyday family moments because she wanted to share them.

What Is Working: All three parts appear and because matches WHY.

What Needs Improvement: The answer is a guess instead of the belief stated in the passage.

Our Strongest Answer!

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

HIGH

Carmen Lomas Garza painted everyday family moments because she believed cultural traditions should be remembered and celebrated.

What Is Working: The noun, verb, and answer are present; because joins a reason grounded in the passage.

★ **This is our target!**