2 Claim and evidence in a short paragraph – Part 2

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Vocabulary

Write each word three times.

English	**Write it 3 times** (English)
claim	

Recall

- You have quoted a line and not said what it showed.
- You know an observation is not an argument.
- You have written a paragraph that summarised a poem.

New ideas

Read these first. Each idea has a short worked example. Then do the Practice below.

1 A claim

A **claim** requires defence with evidence from the text. 'The poem contains three similes' is checkable and needs no defence; 'the similes make the speaker's grief sound mechanical' does.

Worked example. The test is whether a reader could disagree.

2 In combination

Writers identify details that **in combination** enable a claim. A poem's evidence is small - a word, a break, a comparison - so two or three details supporting one claim is the shape of a strong paragraph.

Worked example. Three images of cold support a claim about the speaker's detachment that no single image supports.

■ 3 Explaining the quotation

A quotation proves nothing until the writer says which words carry the weight and what they do. The claim, the evidence and the explanation are three separate sentences' work.

Worked example. After quoting, the sentence beginning 'the word X does…' is where the argument happens.

Watch out: Length is not evidence. A paragraph that quotes four lines and comments on none is weaker than one that quotes three words and explains them.

Practice

2.1 Define a claim. [1]

2.2 State the test that distinguishes a claim from an observation. [2]

2.3 Explain why 'in combination' matters in poetry. [2]

2.4 State what a writer must add after a quotation. [2]

2.5 Turn 'the poem contains three similes' into a claim. [2]