

**7.S1.BI-C.2 Refine critical thinking skills and develop criteria that evaluate arguments and judgments by:**

- a. Stating a firm judgment**
- b. Justifying the judgment with logical, relevant reasons, clear examples, and supporting details**
- c. Creating an organizing structure appropriate to purpose, audience, and context**

## Graduation Day

Even though it was only a mildly warm afternoon in early May, my brow was already covered in sweat as I adjusted the black cap. A few bobby pins clinked on my dresser as I struggled to pin the awkward cap neatly in place. The rough, cheap material didn't fit the shape of my head, but I had never been happier to wear a hat in my life. It wasn't just a hat. It was both a trophy for me and a gift for my mother. Plus, I was sure that Nona would like it a lot better than the torn, bright-yellow polyester hat I wore every day last summer after softball practice. She would always smile and say that at least yellow was a good color for me, as it had been for my mother when she was young.



With that thought, my eyes darted to the cardboard box of photographs at my feet. Unable to find my prized photo on the top of the stack, I frantically dug through the box of carelessly packed picture frames. I scolded myself for doing such a bad job of packing. The last two weeks had been so busy, with all of my time divided among studying, taking final exams, and trying to pack up my belongings. When my fingers grazed the familiar, sharp edges of the tarnished frame, I knew I had found it. I pulled the frame close to me and gazed once again at the faraway, faded face in the picture.

My mother had been a beautiful young woman with sharp black eyes and wavy, dark hair. I had always loved her dress in the picture. It was the color of daffodils, with small black checks on it and a wide black belt. She seemed so elegant and formal, but then again, she had only had a handful of pictures taken in her short life. In those days in Chile, you didn't get your picture taken on an ordinary day around the house. I wished that I could have known her.

Nona had always said how smart and brave my mother had been and that she had always wanted to go to college. Nona would never have been bold enough to leave home alone for a country where people didn't speak her language, and she claimed she would never have known how to get a job as a seamstress on her own. My mother's generation was a lot more independent than Nona's. Nona surely would have never come to the United States if my mother hadn't initiated the move first and set everything up for her, but I was glad that both of them had come.

I quietly placed the frame back in the cardboard box, this time wedging it carefully in a corner where I knew it would stay. After I had finally gotten the cap firmly in place, I paused to stare at my reflection for a few minutes, focusing intently on my own black eyes. Today, when I walked across the stage to accept my college diploma, I would achieve the goal my mother had always dreamed about.

1.

List two things the narrator may have been thinking about as she stared intently at her reflection.

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2.

Nona and the narrator's mother were very different women, yet both had a positive effect on the narrator's life and personal choices. In an organized paragraph, discuss the influence of both women on the narrator, providing details from the text to support your statements.

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3.

List one possible theme of this story. Use a detail from the story to explain the theme.

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# Butterfly Puddles

by Cindy Blobaum

Most kinds of butterflies get the liquid they need from flower nectar, so why do they sometimes swarm around damp spots? Perhaps you've seen butterflies clustered around a damp spot on a dirt path or road. Those butterflies aren't thirsty. They are puddling. Butterflies "puddle" when they are in search of minerals<sup>1</sup> they need to be healthy, such as sodium and nitrogen.

Since butterflies use their tongues to extract<sup>2</sup> minerals from damp soil or sand, why not create a puddling place for them in your garden or yard?

Follow the directions in the box to create a butterfly puddle. Then enjoy watching the butterflies it attracts!

## What you'll need:

- a shallow dish (such as the saucer from a plant pot, or a pie pan)
- rich soil (such as topsoil)
- sponges
- scissors
- flat rocks (some light-colored and some dark-colored)

## What to do:

1. Spread a thin layer of soil in the bottom of the dish.
2. Arrange the rocks in the dish.
3. Cut the sponges into shapes, then place them between the rocks.
4. Wet the sponges so that some water seeps into the soil below, but not so much that there is standing water.
5. Place your butterfly puddle in a sunny area near flowers.  
Try to keep it out of the wind, and make sure it stays moist.

4.

What does the word *puddling* mean in the first paragraph?

- A splashing in the water
- B getting something to drink
- C searching for minerals

5.

What does a butterfly need to stay healthy?

- A sodium and nitrogen
- B soil and nectar
- C oxygen and carbon dioxide

6.

How do butterflies get minerals from damp soil or sand?

- A by using their legs
- B by using their wings
- C by using their tongues

7.

Why are sponges *most likely* needed to create a butterfly puddle?

- A to keep the soil in the dish wet
- B to have color in the dish
- C to give the butterfly a soft place to land

8.

Why do the directions in the box say to place the butterfly puddle near flowers?

- A The flowers will keep the puddle from drying up.
- B The flowers will make butterflies come to the puddle.
- C The flowers will add more minerals to the puddle.

9.

Why is the information in the box important?

- A It tells about different kinds of butterflies.
- B It tells how to make a flower garden for butterflies.
- C It tells how to make a butterfly puddle.

10.

Why would someone read this selection?

- A to learn how to create a butterfly puddle
- B to learn how a butterfly moves from place to place
- C to learn how butterflies eat

