**Prompt: The readings discussed giant pandas. Write to explain the interesting things you learned about giant pandas.**

**I**  **Giant Pandas**

**R1 physical characteristics a. color**

 **b. size**

**R2 habitat a. bamboo forests**

 **b. eat bamboo**

**R3 endangered a. habitat loss**

 **b. protection**

**C Giant Pandas**

**I How much do you know about giant pandas? Some interesting things about giant pandas are their physical characteristics, they live in a special habitat, and they are an endangered species. Giant pandas are fascinating animals!**

**R1 *To begin with,* giant pandas are interesting animals because of their physical characteristics. Giant pandas are black and white. According to the text, China: The Giant Panda, “These bears are black and white, with black patches of fur around their eyes.” The evidence suggests that giant pandas are similar in color to zebras and racoons. *Also,* giant pandas are large animals. Based on what I read in Panda Power, pandas eat up to 83 pounds of bamboo during a period of 14 hours. This explains that pandas are big animals because of the vast amount of food that they eat each day. Giant pandas are interesting animals because of their unique physical characteristics.**

**R2 *Next,* giant pandas are interesting animals because of their unique habitat. Giant pandas live in bamboo forests. The author states in China: The Giant Panda, giant pandas live in the western part of China in the high part of the mountains. This confirms that the giant pandas live in a specific region of China. *Furthermore,* giant pandas are interesting animals because they eat bamboo. According to the article, China: The Giant Panda, “Bamboo is a grass that can grow 100 feet high.” It also states, “Pandas have a special thumb that helps them grasp the bamboo.” For this reason, giant pandas depend greatly on their thumb to be able to get the bamboo they need. Giant pandas are fascinating animals because of their amazing habitat.**

**R3 *Finally,* giant pandas are interesting animals because they are an endangered species. Giant pandas are endangered because of the loss of their habitat. The text Panda Power! states, “Panda habitat is lost when people cut down parts of the forest for wood and farming.” This is important because giant pandas may lose their habitat unless something is done to save them. *Also,* giant pandas must be protected. According to the text, Panda Power! in China there are more than 40 nature centers where humans can not cut down trees where the giant pandas live. This explains/shows/tells me that in China there are efforts in place to protect the giant pandas. It is important to help giant pandas not become extinct.**

**C *To wrap it all up,* giant pandas are fascinating and amazing animals. Some interesting things about giant pandas are their physical characteristics, they live in a special habitat, and they are an endangered species. I feel that we can help giant pandas by ensuring that conservation efforts are in place.**