Take-Home Quiz 6

Analyze the following sentences, marking and identifying all verbals and verbal phrases, all dependent clauses, and all verb objects or complements. Tell how phrases or clauses function.

Scratching his feline cheek against a dried but standing stalk of catnip, Spuds quietly, covertly surveyed his domain. Because of the drop in temperatures, much had changed. The potato plants which were in spreading growth just weeks ago were dug up and discarded. That his namesakes had been eaten was disheartening. But while the potatoes were dug and devoured, the catnip, falling onions, and kale remained. Crouched in between two scrubby plants, life was good.

Comment specifically on the modification of the introductory phrase in the final sentence.