Holding Back Water

Compare how place, time, and text type shape views of flood protection.

11.CL.7 "Compare and/or contrast the perspectives in a variety of fiction, nonfiction, informational, digital, and multimodal texts produced from diverse historical, cultural, and global viewpoints, not limited to the grade level literary focus."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each text's preferred response to flooding, circle one detail that reveals its setting or format, and number two places where different texts address the same concern.

Three Shores, Three Choices

(1) Fictional diary, Zeeland, Netherlands, February 1953: The sea came over the dike before dawn. Our neighbor carried his mother upstairs, and my father rowed between houses to check on people. I used to think the dike was only a road with grass on its sides. Now I want it raised and watched for weak places, even if repairs shut the harbor road for weeks. My uncle fishes, and he worries that bigger barriers could make his work harder. He is right to ask. Still, when I picture water in our kitchen, I want a wall we can trust.

(2) Informational article, coastal Bangladesh, 2023: Along parts of Bangladesh's coast, mangroves slow waves and help hold muddy shorelines in place. They cannot stop every cyclone or replace safe shelters. A concrete wall may protect a road, but it can also change how water drains from nearby fields. Some families rely on fishing and farming, so protection must account for both sudden storms and daily work. Restoring mangroves where conditions allow, while maintaining shelters and warning systems, spreads protection across several layers. The question is not whether a wall is strong; it is which combination protects people without creating new problems downstream.

(3) Imagined social media post, south Louisiana, 2025: The proposed floodwall runs beside our neighborhood, but the public meeting is across town during the evening shift. When officials call it protection, I ask: protection for whom? My grandparents stayed here through storms, and I want my family to stay too. I support stronger flood defenses, but I also want a raised evacuation route and a meeting time that lets working residents speak. A wall can push water toward another block if its design ignores drainage. Please show us the plans before calling this settled. We live with the consequences long after the cameras leave.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the diary and article differ in their preferred flood protections? What drawback or limit does each acknowledge?

2. What concern about work appears in both the article and the post? How does it shape each perspective?

3. Both the diary and the post consider walls. What does each speaker want in addition to, or instead of, relying on a wall alone?

4. How does the difference between a private diary and a public post shape each writer's case for protection? Cite one detail from each text.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 70 to 90 word recommendation for a fictional coastal town. Compare two perspectives from the passage, cite a distinct detail from each, and propose a plan that addresses a local condition you invent without simply adopting either text's complete plan.

ANSWER KEY

Holding Back Water

GRADE 11 · 11.CL.7

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each text's preferred response to flooding, circle one detail that reveals its setting or format, and number two places where different texts address the same concern. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the diary and article differ in their preferred flood protections? What drawback or limit does each acknowledge?	**The diarist wants a raised, regularly checked dike but acknowledges that bigger barriers could hinder fishing. The article favors mangroves, shelters, and warning systems together, while noting that mangroves cannot stop every cyclone.**
2	What concern about work appears in both the article and the post? How does it shape each perspective?	**The article considers how flood protection affects fishing, farming, and drainage. The post argues that meeting times must allow working residents to take part in decisions.**
3	Both the diary and the post consider walls. What does each speaker want in addition to, or instead of, relying on a wall alone?	**The diarist wants the dike watched for weak places and acknowledges the fishing concern. The poster wants a raised evacuation route, attention to drainage, and a chance for working residents to review the plans.**
4	How does the difference between a private diary and a public post shape each writer's case for protection? Cite one detail from each text.	**The diary uses a personal memory of water entering homes to explain the desire for a trustworthy dike. The public post asks officials to show plans and make meetings accessible to working residents.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In Harbor Bend, the only road to higher ground floods before most homes do. The Zeeland diarist's wish for a dike checked for weak spots shows why maintenance matters, but her uncle's fishing concern warns against blocking access to the water. The Louisiana post asks officials to include working residents and calls for a raised evacuation route. I would elevate Harbor Bend's exit road and hold design meetings at two times. Engineers could then test whether a small barrier would redirect water toward the docks.

Accept comparisons supported by specific details, including different reasonable pairings of the texts. The open response should connect two perspectives to an invented local condition and recommend a plan of its own.