The Paper Moon

Use story details to explain a character's choices

4.LF.32 "Respond in writing to literature and informational text, including stories, dramas, poetry, and cross-curricular texts, both independently and with support, demonstrating grade-level proficiency."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that show how Maya's feelings change, then circle a detail that helps explain the change so you can use the text in your answers.

Two Poems for Next Week

1. Maya had practiced her poem all week, but at the library's open-mic night, her hands shook. Her little brother, Ben, sat in the front row holding a paper moon he had cut out for her. When the host called her name, Maya walked to the microphone. She looked at the crowded chairs and forgot the first line. The room felt as silent as a closed book.

2. Ben lifted the paper moon above his head. Maya remembered making it with him at the kitchen table while they talked about the sky. She took one slow breath and began with a different line: "Tonight, the moon fits in my brother's hands." The words were not in her notebook, but they sounded right. She kept going, describing the moon reflected in a puddle on the sidewalk after rain.

3. When Maya finished, Ben waved the moon so hard that one corner bent. A few people clapped, then the whole room joined in. Maya still wished she had remembered her practiced poem, but she smiled at Ben. On the walk home, she wrote her new first line on the back of the paper moon. Next week, she decided, she would bring both poems.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does Maya feel when she first faces the audience? Use a story detail to explain.

2. Why does Ben's paper moon help Maya begin again? Use a story detail to explain.

3. Why might Maya still wish she had remembered her practiced poem, even after the applause? Use a story detail to explain.

4. What does Maya's plan to bring both poems next week show about her new poem? Use a story detail to explain.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a note to Maya suggesting one new way she could use the paper moon at next week's open-mic night. In four or five sentences, explain your idea and use one story detail to show why it fits Maya.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details that show how Maya's feelings change, then circle a detail that helps explain the change so you can use the text in your answers. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does Maya feel when she first faces the audience? Use a story detail to explain.	**Maya feels nervous. Her hands shake, and she forgets the first line.**
2	Why does Ben's paper moon help Maya begin again? Use a story detail to explain.	**It reminds Maya of making the moon with Ben and talking about the sky. That memory helps her begin with a new line about him.**
3	Why might Maya still wish she had remembered her practiced poem, even after the applause? Use a story detail to explain.	**She had practiced it all week, so forgetting it could still disappoint her even though people liked her new poem.**
4	What does Maya's plan to bring both poems next week show about her new poem? Use a story detail to explain.	**She values the new poem enough to share it again. She writes its first line on the back of the paper moon.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Maya, bring the paper moon to the microphone next week. Hold it up while you read your new poem so the audience can picture your first line. Ben's moon helped you begin when you got stuck. Seeing it again might help you feel ready to share both poems.

Accept reasonable interpretations supported by accurate story details. For the note, look for a new, specific use of the paper moon and an explanation tied to the story.