The Bench's Story

Use story details to support a written response.

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

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one sentence near the beginning and one near the end that show how the narrator views the bench. Circle two details that show why the bench matters to other people.

The Star on the Bench

1 On Monday, I found Mr. Vale kneeling beside the old bench outside the library. One wooden slat had split, and a paper sign said, DO NOT SIT. I offered to hold his toolbox, but I doubted a bench was worth so much trouble. Most people hurried past it without looking. Mr. Vale ran a finger over a tiny star carved near the end.

2 "My daughter carved that star with my help when she was ten," he said. "She used to wait here while I picked out books." He showed me how to steady a new slat while he tightened the screws. An older woman stopped and thanked us. She said the bench gave her a place to rest on her walk home.

3 By Friday, the sign was gone. I watched two children share a book on the repaired bench while their grandfather sat beside them. The small star was still there, even though the wood around it had been sanded smooth. I used to see the bench as a broken thing no one noticed. Now I saw it as a place that held many people's stories.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the narrator's view of the bench change? Use one detail from the beginning and one from the end.

2. Why might Mr. Vale want to keep the carved star? Support your idea with a story detail.

3. What does the older woman's comment help you understand about the bench? Use a detail from the story.

4. Why does the story show the children and their grandfather using the bench at the end? Explain how that scene adds to the story's message.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four- or five-sentence note to the library explaining whether it should keep the repaired bench for years to come. Use two different story details as evidence, and explain how each supports your opinion.

ANSWER KEY

The Bench's Story

GRADE 5 · 5.LF.32

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one sentence near the beginning and one near the end that show how the narrator views the bench. Circle two details that show why the bench matters to other people. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the narrator's view of the bench change? Use one detail from the beginning and one from the end.	**At first, the narrator doubts the bench is worth repairing. By the end, the narrator sees it as a place that holds people's stories.**
2	Why might Mr. Vale want to keep the carved star? Support your idea with a story detail.	**The star reminds him of his daughter, who carved it with his help when she was ten.**
3	What does the older woman's comment help you understand about the bench? Use a detail from the story.	**The bench helps people in the neighborhood because the older woman rests there on her walk home.**
4	Why does the story show the children and their grandfather using the bench at the end? Explain how that scene adds to the story's message.	**The scene shows another family making memories at the bench. It supports the idea that the bench matters to more people than Mr. Vale.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Please keep the repaired bench outside the library for years to come. Mr. Vale's daughter carved a star on it when she was ten. That star gives his family a memory they can still visit. An older woman said the bench lets her rest on her walk home. Her experience shows the bench still helps people in the neighborhood.

Accept supported interpretations of the characters' feelings and the bench's importance. For the note, accept either opinion if the student uses two distinct story details and explains how each supports it.