Beyond the Ribbon

Read a story to see how its details shape its meaning.

6.CL.3 "Explain how authors use setting, plot, characters, theme, conflict, dialogue, and point of view to contribute to the meaning and purpose of prose and poetry, using textual evidence from the writing."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details about the setting, circle the dialogue that shows the disagreement, and number three decisions the narrator makes in order. Use your marks to track how the conflict changes.

The Leaky Library

1 Rain rattled the windows of the neighborhood library as I carried my history display toward the front desk. In one hour, visitors would vote for their favorite exhibit. I had spent weeks collecting stories about the old train station, and I wanted the blue ribbon to myself. Across the room, Asha arranged her display of neighborhood recipes. We had argued all week about whose project mattered more. Then a drop landed on my poster. Above us, water was slipping through a crack in the ceiling. I pulled my poster away from the leak.

2 The leak spread toward Asha's table, where her grandmother's handwritten recipe book lay open. "Can you help me move it?" she called. I looked at my dry poster and the ribbon waiting on the desk. "You can move it," I said, but the book's pages were already curling. I grabbed the book while Asha pushed her table away from the dripping ceiling. The librarian set a bucket beneath the leak and called for a repair worker. My poster stayed safe, but its empty space suddenly bothered me.

3 When visitors arrived, Asha's book was safe, though a few pages had wrinkled. I carried my poster to her table and asked if we could share the space. Her recipes and my train stories both showed how neighbors had made a home here. Asha added a note about the meals her grandmother had packed for station workers. We did not win the blue ribbon. Still, as visitors leaned in to read our joined display, I felt prouder than I had when the poster stood alone.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the rainy library setting create a problem that changes the narrator's plans? Use a detail from the story.

2. What does the narrator's reply, "You can move it," show about the conflict at that moment? Use another story detail to explain.

3. How does hearing the story from the narrator's point of view help you understand the change in the narrator? Use a thought or feeling from the story.

4. How does the ending help show what the story says about working with others? Use evidence from the ending.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence scene from Asha's point of view as the leak reaches her table. Include a line of dialogue and a detail from the story, then add one sentence explaining how her point of view changes what a reader understands about the conflict.

ANSWER KEY

Beyond the Ribbon

GRADE 6 · 6.CL.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details about the setting, circle the dialogue that shows the disagreement, and number three decisions the narrator makes in order. Use your marks to track how the conflict changes. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the rainy library setting create a problem that changes the narrator's plans? Use a detail from the story.	**Water slips through the library ceiling and reaches Asha's recipe book. Instead of focusing only on the vote, the narrator helps save it.**
2	What does the narrator's reply, "You can move it," show about the conflict at that moment? Use another story detail to explain.	**The narrator is reluctant to help Asha and is still focused on the contest, shown by the glance at the dry poster and the ribbon.**
3	How does hearing the story from the narrator's point of view help you understand the change in the narrator? Use a thought or feeling from the story.	**The narrator says the empty space beside the safe poster bothers them, then feels prouder of the shared display than of the poster alone. These feelings reveal a change in what matters to the narrator.**
4	How does the ending help show what the story says about working with others? Use evidence from the ending.	**The two students join their displays and do not win the ribbon, but the narrator feels proud as visitors read their work. The ending suggests that sharing their stories matters more than winning.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A drop struck Grandma's handwritten recipe book, and I pulled it toward me. "Can you help me move it?" I called. When my classmate looked at the dry poster, I feared the contest mattered more than Grandma's stories. Then my classmate grabbed the book, and I pushed my table away from the leak. Asha's point of view shows her fear of losing a family keepsake, a feeling the original narrator cannot directly describe.

Accept answers that connect a specific story detail to its effect on the conflict or meaning. For Part 3, the scene should stay consistent with the story while adding Asha's thoughts, not claim that the original narrator knew them.