A Door to Walk Through

Use literary details to explain how a story's meaning changes.

7.CL.4 "Evaluate literary devices to support interpretations of literary texts using textual evidence, including simile, metaphor, personification, onomatopoeia, hyperbole, imagery, tone, symbolism, irony, and mood."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two examples of figurative language, circle a sound word, and number the two descriptions of the brass key. Use your marks to explain what the details suggest.

The Meeting in the Rain

1 On the night the town council planned to close the library, June slipped inside to return a book. Rain drummed on the roof, and the hallway smelled of wet wool and old paper. The lights blinked out. *Click, click*, went the loose front-door latch as wind pushed against it. June held her phone like a tiny lighthouse, guiding her past the shelves. At the desk, she found a cardboard sign: MEETING MOVED TO THE LIBRARY, 7 P.M. She glanced at the dark windows. It was nearly seven.

2 June could have left the sign where it lay. Instead, she propped the front door open and set her phone on the desk, its beam pointing down the hall. The library seemed to hold its breath. One by one, neighbors came in, shaking rain from their coats. Mr. Vega, who had called the building useless at the last meeting, hurried in carrying a toddler. Outside, water spilled over the curb. Inside, the room filled with quiet voices and the rustle of pages as people waited for the council.

3 When the council arrived, someone asked Mr. Vega to speak first. He looked at the child asleep against his shoulder, then at the shelves. "I thought nobody needed this place," he said. "But tonight it gave us a door to walk through." June noticed the brass key hanging by a blue string behind the desk. Earlier, it had looked like a way to lock people out. Now it looked like a promise that someone would let them in. The rain kept falling, but June lowered her phone; the room no longer felt dark.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. June holds her phone "like a tiny lighthouse." What does this simile suggest about her role? Use another detail from the passage to support your answer.

2. How does "The library seemed to hold its breath" affect the mood just before the neighbors arrive?

3. What does "Click, click" help you imagine, and how does that sound affect the opening scene?

4. Why is it ironic that the council's meeting about closing the library takes place there? Use two details from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

In four sentences, explain what the brass key comes to symbolize for June and what that change suggests about the library. Use both descriptions of the key as evidence.

ANSWER KEY

A Door to Walk Through

GRADE 7 · 7.CL.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two examples of figurative language, circle a sound word, and number the two descriptions of the brass key. Use your marks to explain what the details suggest. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	June holds her phone "like a tiny lighthouse." What does this simile suggest about her role? Use another detail from the passage to support your answer.	**June helps guide others through the dark. She sets her phone on the desk with its beam pointing down the hall as neighbors arrive.**
2	How does "The library seemed to hold its breath" affect the mood just before the neighbors arrive?	**The personification creates a tense, expectant mood as June waits to see who will come.**
3	What does "Click, click" help you imagine, and how does that sound affect the opening scene?	**The sound suggests the loose latch moving in the wind. It makes the dark, stormy library feel unsettled.**
4	Why is it ironic that the council's meeting about closing the library takes place there? Use two details from the passage.	**The council plans to close the library, yet the meeting moves there during the storm. Neighbors gather inside, and Mr. Vega, who had called the building useless, says it gave them a door to walk through.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At first, the brass key seems to symbolize keeping people out. June thinks of it as "a way to lock people out," which fits the plan to close the library. Later, it looks like "a promise that someone would let them in." The change suggests that the library can welcome people instead of shutting them away.

Accept interpretations that connect a literary device to its effect or meaning and support the claim with accurate passage details. For Part 3, students should explain the contrast between the key's two meanings, not just quote both descriptions.