When Water Rises

Three viewpoints on living with floods

8.CL.5 "Compare and contrast the perspectives in a variety of fiction, nonfiction, informational, digital, and multimodal texts produced from diverse historical, cultural, and global viewpoints."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the approach to flooding favored in each text, and circle one detail that explains why that approach matters to its writer.

Three Ways to Face a Flood

1. **Imagined diary, the Netherlands, 1953:** The storm pushed seawater across the fields before dawn. Our family climbed to the attic while the road vanished below us. When the water finally dropped, my father said the dikes would have to be made stronger. I agree, even if building them takes years. I want a barrier high enough that my little brother can sleep without listening for water at the door. From our window, the land looks flat and open, but tonight it feels frighteningly close to the sea.

2. **Informational article, Bangladesh, today:** In parts of Bangladesh, seasonal floods cover farmland for weeks or months. Some farmers build floating gardens by layering aquatic plants into rafts and growing vegetables on top. As water rises, the gardens rise with it. A stronger wall cannot protect every field beside every river. Floating gardens offer another way to keep growing food when land is underwater. This approach works with changing water levels rather than trying to block the water everywhere.

3. **Imagined social media post, Fiji, today:** Last night, waves crossed the path beside our village. Someone asked why we do not simply build a concrete wall. I worry a wall could push the water's force toward the next stretch of shore. I would rather restore the mangroves that used to grow along this bay. Their roots can slow waves and shelter young fish. My cousin says trees take time, and she is right. Still, I want protection that also keeps the bay alive for families who fish here.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the diary writer and the social media writer differ in the protection they want for their communities?

2. How does the article's approach to floodwater contrast with the diary writer's approach? Use a detail from each text.

3. What concern do the article and the social media post share, and how does each connect that concern to a different kind of food?

4. How does the diary reveal a more private concern than the social media post? Support your comparison with a detail from each.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a town that can afford only one flood project this year, although both homes and vegetable plots flood. In five sentences, recommend one approach from the passage, contrast it with another, explain how two texts' viewpoints shaped your choice, and name one problem your choice would leave unresolved.

ANSWER KEY

When Water Rises

GRADE 8 · 8.CL.5

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the approach to flooding favored in each text, and circle one detail that explains why that approach matters to its writer. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the diary writer and the social media writer differ in the protection they want for their communities?	**The diary writer wants stronger dikes to keep seawater out. The social media writer prefers restoring mangroves, which can slow waves and shelter fish.**
2	How does the article's approach to floodwater contrast with the diary writer's approach? Use a detail from each text.	**The article describes gardens that rise with floodwater so crops can grow on flooded land. The diary writer wants stronger dikes to keep water away from homes.**
3	What concern do the article and the social media post share, and how does each connect that concern to a different kind of food?	**Both value protecting a source of food. The article focuses on vegetables grown on floating gardens, while the post values mangroves that shelter young fish.**
4	How does the diary reveal a more private concern than the social media post? Support your comparison with a detail from each.	**The diary writer fears for a little brother who cannot sleep safely. The social media writer responds to a public suggestion about a wall and considers its effects on nearby shores and fishing families.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I recommend strengthening a dike first because the town's flooded homes put families at risk. The diary writer's fear for a younger brother helps me understand why protecting homes matters. Floating gardens, like those in the article, would help farmers keep growing vegetables during floods, but they would not keep water out of houses. I would choose the dike because homes need protection now, even though building it could take years. My choice leaves the vegetable plots at risk if the dike does not protect the fields.

Accept comparisons grounded in specific details from both texts named in a question. For Part 3, accept any supported choice that contrasts two approaches and identifies a problem the choice does not solve.