What Sets It Off?

Trace how situations and interpretations shape emotions.

SS24.P.15b "Describe situational cues that cause emotions, including anger, curiosity, and anxiety."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline a concrete situational cue for each of anger, curiosity, and anxiety, then circle a detail that shows how someone interprets each cue.

At the Invention Fair

1. At a school invention fair, three students share a booth for a water-saving device. Maya and Leo agreed that Maya would explain the design while Leo handled questions. Just before visitors arrive, Leo tells Maya to stand aside and presents the device as his own work. Maya remembers the hours she spent testing it and sees her name missing from the display card. Her face feels hot, and she has to pause before speaking. Leo's choice has blocked a role they agreed on and made Maya's work seem invisible. Those details make her reaction understandable, even though someone else might respond differently.

2. Across the room, a visitor named Nia watches a model greenhouse. Its roof panels open when a lamp shines on them, but no one touches the model. Nia notices a thin wire disappearing behind the base. She had expected a simple hand-operated display, so the movement does not fit her prediction. She leans closer and asks whether the panels respond to heat, light, or a hidden switch. The unexpected motion and the partly hidden mechanism give her something specific to investigate. She has time to examine the model, and nothing important depends on guessing correctly.

3. Later, the fair organizer announces a surprise: each team must test its device using a container supplied by the judges. The teams will not see the container until their turn. Maya worries that their device may not fit it, and a failed test could affect the final score. Leo hears the same announcement but starts wondering what kind of container the judges chose; he wants to try adapting the device. The unknown container is one cue, not a feeling on its own. For Maya, an uncertain result and a possible loss stand out. For Leo, the chance to solve a new problem stands out.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which actions or details at the booth could cause Maya to feel anger? Explain why.

2. What about the greenhouse model could spark Nia's curiosity?

3. Why might the organizer's announcement cause Maya anxiety?

4. Maya and Leo hear the same announcement. What does each focus on, and how could that lead to different emotions?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

In a setting outside the invention fair, write three sentences: one describing a cue that could cause anger, one for curiosity, and one for anxiety. In each sentence, explain why the cue could bring about that feeling.

What Sets It Off?

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline a concrete situational cue for each of anger, curiosity, and anxiety, then circle a detail that shows how someone interprets each cue. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which actions or details at the booth could cause Maya to feel anger? Explain why.	**Leo takes the speaking role they agreed Maya would have, claims the device as his own work, and leaves her name off the display card. Maya could see these actions as unfair.**
2	What about the greenhouse model could spark Nia's curiosity?	**The roof panels move without anyone touching them, and Nia can see a wire but not how the model works. The movement does not fit what she expected.**
3	Why might the organizer's announcement cause Maya anxiety?	**Maya cannot see the container in advance, so she does not know whether their device will fit it. A failed test could lower their final score.**
4	Maya and Leo hear the same announcement. What does each focus on, and how could that lead to different emotions?	**Maya focuses on the chance of a failed test and lost points, which could cause anxiety. Leo focuses on the chance to solve a new problem, which could spark curiosity.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At a theater rehearsal, an actor learns that someone else was given the part she was promised, and the broken agreement makes her angry. When a locked prop box rattles, another actor grows curious because he cannot tell what moved inside it. Just before opening night, the lights flicker, and the stage manager feels anxious because a blackout could stop the show.

Accept other passage-supported cues when students explain the link between the situation and the emotion. For the open task, look for three distinct, concrete cues and a plausible explanation for each emotion.