

Market Mystery Meanings

Use context to interpret allusions.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.7.5a "Interpret figures of speech (e.g., literary, biblical, and mythological allusions) in context."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each phrase that refers to a person or story beyond the market. For each underlined phrase, number two nearby details that help you infer its meaning.

The Harvest Night Market

- ① On Saturday, Maya arrived at the community garden before sunrise to prepare for the Harvest Night Market. She carried folding tables, signs, and baskets of tomatoes from the shed. By seven o'clock, her arms ached, and the work list kept growing. "I'm Atlas holding up the sky," she told her friend Devon, who was tying lanterns to the fence. Devon laughed, took two baskets, and asked Maya to sort the price cards instead. Maya finally sat down beside the pumpkin patch, grateful that the load was lighter.
- ② At noon, dark clouds opened over the garden. Rain hammered the tables, and a stream rushed along the path. Volunteers grabbed cloth covers and moved the bread inside the tool shed. Mr. Ruiz pointed to the shed and called, "Noah's ark is open for business!" Everyone hurried in, dripping but laughing. Ten minutes later, the storm passed. The supplies inside stayed dry, while puddles reflected lanterns outside. A family entered the shed and found it crowded with neighbors, baskets, and wet umbrellas.
- ③ Just before sunset, one basket of blue ribbons disappeared from the welcome table. Devon examined a torn paper tag near the gate and noticed blue threads caught on a rosebush. "Sherlock Holmes would solve this before the first song," Maya said. Devon followed the threads to a small dog wagging its tail beside the fountain. The ribbons trailed from its collar, and its owner quickly returned them. Maya watched Devon compare the tag, threads, and collar before he announced where the missing ribbons had gone. Music began as Devon returned to the table.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What does Maya mean when she says, "I'm Atlas holding up the sky"? Use details from the paragraph in your answer.

2 What does Mr. Ruiz mean by calling the tool shed "Noah's ark"? Explain how the storm helps reveal the meaning.

3 What does Maya's reference to Sherlock Holmes suggest about Devon? Which details support your interpretation?

4 How does each allusion make a market problem easier to understand? Name the problem connected to Atlas, Noah's ark, and Sherlock Holmes.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly two sentences about a school or community situation. In the first sentence, use an allusion to a literary, biblical, or mythological character or event. In the second sentence, include context clues that reveal what you mean.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each phrase that refers to a person or story beyond the market. For each underlined phrase, number two nearby details that help you infer its meaning. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does Maya mean when she says, "I'm Atlas holding up the sky"? Use details from the paragraph in your answer.	Maya means that she feels burdened by too much work and responsibility. She has carried supplies, her arms ache, and the work list keeps growing.
2	What does Mr. Ruiz mean by calling the tool shed "Noah's ark"? Explain how the storm helps reveal the meaning.	He compares the shed to Noah's ark because it gives people and supplies shelter during a floodlike rainstorm.
3	What does Maya's reference to Sherlock Holmes suggest about Devon? Which details support your interpretation?	It suggests that Devon is acting like a skilled detective. He examines the tag, notices threads, compares clues, and finds the missing ribbons.
4	How does each allusion make a market problem easier to understand? Name the problem connected to Atlas, Noah's ark, and Sherlock Holmes.	Atlas shows Maya's heavy workload, Noah's ark shows the shed protecting people and supplies from rain, and Sherlock Holmes shows Devon solving the ribbon mystery with clues.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

When the science fair display collapsed, I felt like Sisyphus rebuilding the same tower of blocks. Each time I fixed one side, another section slid down, so I kept starting again.

Accept reasonable interpretations supported by details in the passage. For Part 3, accept a two-sentence response with a clear allusion and context clues that reveal its intended meaning.