Bridge Before Dark

Use story details to describe a character, setting, and event.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.3 "Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that show what Mara says, thinks, or does. Circle details that show the creek setting, then use your marks to explain how the setting affects Mara.

The Last Lantern

1 At dusk, Mara stood beside the creek behind the community garden. A hard rain had washed away the little wooden bridge, and water rushed over the steppingstones. Across the creek, the garden shed held the paper lanterns for the neighborhood's Moon Walk. Mara gripped the empty lantern pole. “Everyone is waiting,” she said, but her voice sounded smaller than the creek.

2 Her brother Theo pointed toward the muddy bank. “We can tell them the walk is canceled,” he said. Mara imagined children arriving with their families and finding only dark paths. She knelt, tested a flat stone with her boot, then placed the pole across two rocks. When it wobbled, she pulled it back and searched for a wider board beside the garden fence.

3 Rain tapped on the leaves as Mara carried the board to the creek. “Hold this end,” she told Theo. Together, they laid the board across the rocks and pressed it until it stayed still. Mara hurried to the shed, lifted the lanterns, and led the first families over the new bridge. Soon, warm lights moved along the garden path.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Describe the creek setting at the beginning of the story. Use two details to explain how it creates a problem for Mara.

2. What do Mara's words, "Everyone is waiting," and her small-sounding voice reveal about her? Explain with details from the story.

3. What does Mara do when the pole wobbles? What do these actions show about her character?

4. Describe how the event changes from a problem to a success. Use at least three details from the story.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Describe Mara as a character from the beginning to the end of the story. Write exactly three sentences, and use at least three details about her thoughts, words, or actions.

ANSWER KEY

Bridge Before Dark

GRADE 4 · RL.4.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details that show what Mara says, thinks, or does. Circle details that show the creek setting, then use your marks to explain how the setting affects Mara. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Describe the creek setting at the beginning of the story. Use two details to explain how it creates a problem for Mara.	**The hard rain washed away the wooden bridge, and water rushed over the steppingstones. The swollen creek makes it hard for Mara to reach the shed and get the lanterns.**
2	What do Mara's words, "Everyone is waiting," and her small-sounding voice reveal about her? Explain with details from the story.	**Mara feels worried or nervous, but she also feels responsible for the Moon Walk because she knows people are waiting.**
3	What does Mara do when the pole wobbles? What do these actions show about her character?	**She pulls the pole back and looks for a wider board. These actions show that she is careful and keeps trying to solve the problem.**
4	Describe how the event changes from a problem to a success. Use at least three details from the story.	**The rain destroys the bridge, Mara and Theo place a board across the rocks, and Mara carries the lanterns over the new bridge so families can walk along the lighted path.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Mara is determined and careful from beginning to end. Although the rushing creek makes her voice sound small, she tests a stone and removes the wobbly pole instead of taking a risk. She works with Theo to steady a board, then leads families across so the Moon Walk can begin.

Accept descriptions supported by accurate details from the passage and reasonable inferences about Mara, such as worried, responsible, determined, or careful. For the open task, check for exactly three sentences and at least three relevant text details.