Compass in the Fog

A close reading of a short realistic story.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.10 "By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poetry, at the high end of the grades 4-5 text complexity band independently and proficiently."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that show how Mara helps solve the problem, then number 1, 2, and 3 beside three major events in order. Use your marks to track how the story develops.

The Lantern Path

1 On the morning of the town's lantern festival, Mara found her grandfather's brass compass on the workbench. Its needle trembled, then pointed toward the marsh instead of north. Grandfather had left before dawn to hang lights along the boardwalk. Mara knew he disliked being interrupted while working, but the strange compass made her pull on her boots and follow the narrow path.

2 At the first bend, Mara heard a bell clanging through the fog. She hurried until she saw Grandfather beside a fallen light pole. One end had sunk into mud, and the festival lanterns lay dark in a crate. “I should have brought help,” he said, rubbing his wrist. Mara looked at the compass, then at the winding channels beyond the reeds.

3 She remembered Grandfather's lesson: a compass can guide a person when it is held level and away from large metal objects. Mara placed it on a flat stone, and the needle steadied toward north. She traced the direction to a shed across the marsh, where workers kept rope and a small cart. Together, she and Grandfather raised the pole before sunset. That night, the boardwalk glowed, and Grandfather asked Mara to lead the first visitors.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What causes Mara to follow the path toward the marsh? Use one detail from paragraph 1.

2. What problem do Mara and Grandfather face at the first bend? Use two details from paragraph 2.

3. How does Mara use Grandfather's lesson to help solve the problem?

4. What does Grandfather's final request show about how he sees Mara? Cite one event from the story.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence reading response that states a lesson Mara learns. Support the lesson with one detail from paragraph 1 and one detail from paragraph 3.

ANSWER KEY # Compass in the Fog

GRADE 5 · RL.5.10

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details that show how Mara helps solve the problem, then number 1, 2, and 3 beside three major events in order. Use your marks to track how the story develops. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What causes Mara to follow the path toward the marsh? Use one detail from paragraph 1.	**The compass points toward the marsh instead of north, which makes Mara follow the path.**
2	What problem do Mara and Grandfather face at the first bend? Use two details from paragraph 2.	**A light pole has fallen and sunk into mud, leaving the lanterns dark in a crate. Grandfather has also hurt or strained his wrist.**
3	How does Mara use Grandfather's lesson to help solve the problem?	**She places the compass level on a flat stone away from large metal objects, then uses its northward direction to find the shed with rope and a cart.**
4	What does Grandfather's final request show about how he sees Mara? Cite one event from the story.	**It shows that he trusts Mara and sees her as capable. She helps find the needed supplies and raise the pole, so he asks her to lead the first visitors.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Mara learns that careful thinking can turn worry into useful action. In the first paragraph, she follows the compass because she notices it is pointing in a strange direction. Later, she remembers how to use it correctly and finds the rope and cart needed to fix the pole.

Accept reasonable responses supported by accurate details from the passage. For the open task, check for exactly three sentences, a sensible lesson, and evidence from both required paragraphs.