Signal in Fog

Use direct details and clues to support claims.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.1 "Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that directly state facts about Maya or the setting. Circle details that help you infer Maya's feelings or choices, then use these marks as evidence in your answers.

Harbor Point Lighthouse

1 On Saturday morning, Maya climbed the narrow steps of Harbor Point Lighthouse with her grandfather. A thick fog pressed against the windows, hiding the fishing boats below. Grandfather pointed to a brass logbook beside the lamp. "Keep the beam turning," he said, "and write down the weather every hour." Maya nodded, but her hands stayed in her coat pockets. She had planned to spend the day sketching seabirds on the sunny cliff path, not checking gauges in a chilly tower.

2 Near noon, the foghorn sounded twice, then stopped. Maya leaned toward the window and saw a dark shape moving slowly where the water met the rocks. Grandfather was outside, carrying fuel from the shed, and he could not hear her through the wind. Maya pulled the lamp's backup lever, which made the beam sweep faster. Then she rang the emergency bell. A few minutes later, a small fishing boat appeared beyond the rocks and turned toward the open harbor.

3 When Grandfather returned, he found Maya recording "fog, strong wind, boat near rocks" in the logbook. He read the entry, smiled, and placed a warm mug of cocoa beside her. "You noticed the danger and used the right signals," he said. Maya looked through a clear patch in the fog at the boat heading safely away. She did not mention the seabirds. Instead, she asked Grandfather to show her how the foghorn worked, and she checked the weather gauge before leaving the tower.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What two jobs does Grandfather give Maya? Cite the words that directly state both jobs.

2. What can you infer Maya thinks about lighthouse work at the beginning? Cite two details that support your inference.

3. Why does Maya decide to use the backup lever and ring the emergency bell? Cite one detail that describes what she sees and one action that supports your inference.

4. How has Maya's attitude toward lighthouse work changed by the end? Cite two details.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence paragraph explaining how the fog creates a challenge for Maya and reveals something about her character. State a claim, cite two details from different paragraphs, and explain how each supports your claim.

ANSWER KEY

Signal in Fog

GRADE 6 · RL.6.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details that directly state facts about Maya or the setting. Circle details that help you infer Maya's feelings or choices, then use these marks as evidence in your answers. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two jobs does Grandfather give Maya? Cite the words that directly state both jobs.	**Grandfather tells Maya to "keep the beam turning" and to "write down the weather every hour."**
2	What can you infer Maya thinks about lighthouse work at the beginning? Cite two details that support your inference.	**Maya is reluctant or disappointed about the work. She keeps her hands in her coat pockets, and she had planned to sketch seabirds instead of checking gauges.**
3	Why does Maya decide to use the backup lever and ring the emergency bell? Cite one detail that describes what she sees and one action that supports your inference.	**Maya infers that a boat may be in danger near the rocks. She sees "a dark shape moving slowly" where the water meets the rocks, then makes the beam sweep faster and rings the emergency bell.**
4	How has Maya's attitude toward lighthouse work changed by the end? Cite two details.	**Maya becomes interested and responsible. At first, she wants to sketch seabirds, but later she asks how the foghorn works and checks the weather gauge before leaving.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The fog creates a dangerous challenge that reveals Maya is responsible and quick-thinking. The fog is "hiding the fishing boats below," and Maya sees a shape near the rocks, so she quickly uses the backup lever and emergency bell. Later, she records the conditions and asks how the foghorn works, showing that she takes her lighthouse duties seriously.

Accept reasonable claims that are supported by accurate details from the passage. For inference questions, students must explain how the cited details support the conclusion, not only list events.