The Signal Lantern

Track plot episodes and a character's changing responses.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.3 "Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number the three main plot episodes 1, 2, and 3. Underline words or sentences that show how Mina responds to problems or changes by the end.

A Light for the Harbor

1 On the morning of the harbor festival, Mina found the town's signal lantern cracked on the pier. Her grandfather had asked her to light it at sunset, a job usually done by adults. Mina wanted to hide the damage and borrow a small lamp instead. Then she noticed fishing boats moving through thick fog beyond the rocks. If the signal stayed dark, the boats might miss the safe channel. Mina carried the heavy lantern to Mr. Vale, the repairer, but his workshop door was locked.

2 Remembering that her grandfather kept tools in the boathouse, Mina ran there. She found wire, a screwdriver, and a page from an old repair guide. The guide showed how to hold the glass frame steady while replacing a broken latch. Her hands shook when the first screw fell into the sand. Instead of quitting, Mina asked two festival volunteers to hold a cloth beneath the lantern. Together they found the screw, fitted the latch, and tested the door. The lantern still needed fuel, and sunset was less than an hour away.

3 Mina remembered a fuel can in the lifeguard shed, but the path crossed a filling tide pool. At first, she waited, listening to waves slap the stones. Then she saw a child waving from a boat in the fog. Mina stepped from rock to rock, reached the shed, and carried the can back. At sunset, she lit the repaired lantern. Its bright beam swept across the water, and three boats turned toward the channel. Mina no longer wished to hide problems. She walked home planning to learn the lantern's parts.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What problem starts the plot, and how does Mina first want to respond to it?

2. How does Mina respond when the screw falls into the sand in the second episode?

3. After the latch is repaired, what new obstacle appears, and what does Mina do about it?

4. How does the resolution show that Mina has changed from the beginning of the story?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence episode map of the story. Describe the beginning, middle, and ending episodes, then explain how Mina changes across them.

The Signal Lantern

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Number the three main plot episodes 1, 2, and 3. Underline words or sentences that show how Mina responds to problems or changes by the end. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What problem starts the plot, and how does Mina first want to respond to it?	**The signal lantern is cracked before Mina must light it. At first, she wants to hide the damage and borrow a small lamp.**
2	How does Mina respond when the screw falls into the sand in the second episode?	**Instead of quitting, she asks two volunteers to hold a cloth beneath the lantern so they can find the screw.**
3	After the latch is repaired, what new obstacle appears, and what does Mina do about it?	**The lantern needs fuel before sunset. Mina crosses the filling tide pool to get a fuel can from the lifeguard shed.**
4	How does the resolution show that Mina has changed from the beginning of the story?	**At first, Mina wants to hide the problem. By the end, she solves it, lights the lantern, and plans to learn all of its parts.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

First, Mina finds the cracked lantern and hopes to hide the trouble. Next, she works with volunteers to repair the broken latch, even after a screw falls. Finally, she crosses the tide pool for fuel and lights the lantern so boats can find the channel. By the end, Mina has changed from avoiding responsibility to wanting to understand the lantern.

Accept accurate paraphrases that identify the major episodes in order and connect Mina's actions to each problem. For the final change, students should explain that Mina moves from avoiding the responsibility to taking action and wanting to learn more.