

Lantern in Rain

Annotate a literary passage to track events, meaning, and theme.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.10 "By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, in the grades 6-8 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB As you read, number three events that move the plot forward, and underline details that help you infer why the lantern matters to the people in the story.

The Last Lantern

- ① At dusk, Mara carried the library's last lantern across the square. The town had installed electric streetlights that spring, yet the old lantern still hung beside the return slot. Its brass frame was dented, and its glass held a faint amber glow. Mara had promised Mr. Vale, the retiring librarian, that she would light it one final evening. She did not understand why he cared, but she noticed that he had polished the handle himself that morning.
- ② Before Mara reached the steps, rain began tapping the lantern's roof. A wind swept through the square, bending the flame until it nearly vanished. Mara could have hurried inside, where the new lights shone steadily. Instead, she cupped both hands around the glass and waited. Across the street, an elderly man paused beneath an awning, watching her. When the flame strengthened, he lifted his hat toward her and continued home with a smile she could barely see.
- ③ Mr. Vale met her at the door with a dry towel. "You kept it alive," he said. Mara shrugged, embarrassed by the attention. Then he pointed to a photograph above the desk. It showed the square during a blackout years earlier, crowded with neighbors gathered around the same lantern. Mara looked through the rain-streaked window at the electric lamps. They made the street bright, but the small flame had made one stranger feel noticed. She set the lantern beside the return slot and smiled.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What challenge does Mara face on her way to the library, and what does she do about it?

2 How does the contrast between the electric streetlights and the old lantern help develop the passage's meaning?

3 What does the photograph help Mara understand about why Mr. Vale values the lantern?

4 State a theme of the passage and support it with two details from the text.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a meaningful object from a story you have read. Write exactly three sentences explaining what the object represents, using two specific details from the story to show how readers can infer its meaning.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

As you read, number three events that move the plot forward, and underline details that help you infer why the lantern matters to the people in the story. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What challenge does Mara face on her way to the library, and what does she do about it?	Rain and wind nearly put out the lantern's flame. Mara protects it with her hands and waits for the flame to strengthen.
2	How does the contrast between the electric streetlights and the old lantern help develop the passage's meaning?	The electric lights provide brightness, but the lantern represents human connection, memory, and care.
3	What does the photograph help Mara understand about why Mr. Vale values the lantern?	It shows that the lantern once brought neighbors together during a blackout, so it has an important shared history.
4	State a theme of the passage and support it with two details from the text.	A theme is that small acts of care can make people feel connected. Mara protects the lantern in the storm, and the elderly man responds by lifting his hat and smiling.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In Charlotte's Web, the web represents friendship and care. Charlotte writes words such as "Some Pig" and "Terrific" in her web to help people notice Wilbur, and she continues making webs even when she is weak. Readers can infer that the web shows how Charlotte protects Wilbur through her actions.

Accept reasonable inferences that use accurate details from the passage. For the open task, accept any literary object and interpretation supported by two specific, accurate story details in exactly three sentences.