Fogbound Choices

Trace how an island setting shapes choices and events.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.3 "Analyze how particular elements of a story or drama interact (e.g., how setting shapes the characters or plot)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words that describe the island's weather or places, circle each important character choice, and draw an arrow from each setting detail to the choice or event it affects.

The Last Ferry

1 At four o'clock, Lena reached the island dock with a box of medicine for her grandfather. A hard rain had turned the wooden planks slick, and fog hid the mainland. The last ferry was scheduled at sunset. Lena gripped the rail instead of racing across the dock. If she slipped, the box could fall through the gaps into the dark water. Behind her, the village clinic's windows glowed, but its shelves were empty for tonight.

2 Near the ticket booth, Mr. Sato, the ferryman, studied the water. "The channel markers are gone in this fog," he said. "I cannot take passengers safely." Lena looked at the medicine, then at the narrow path climbing the cliff. It led to the old signal tower. From there, she could use the radio to call the clinic and ask for help. Though the wind pushed at her coat, Lena chose the steep path instead of waiting beside the dock.

3 By the time Lena reached the tower, rain rattled against its metal door. Inside, the radio worked only when she held its loose antenna toward the window. Lena remembered Mr. Sato's warning and reported the missing channel markers before requesting a rescue boat. The coast guard sent a crew using a safer route along the sheltered side of the island. At midnight, the medicine arrived at the clinic, and Lena watched the ferry light fade beyond the fog.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the rain, fog, and wet dock affect Lena's actions in the first paragraph?

2. How does the fog shape Mr. Sato's decision and the next event in the plot?

3. How does the condition of the signal tower radio affect what Lena must do?

4. How does the island's geography help solve the problem?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence scene in a different setting. Show one setting detail that forces a character to make a choice, then show how that choice changes what happens next.

ANSWER KEY

Fogbound Choices

GRADE 7 · RL.7.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words that describe the island's weather or places, circle each important character choice, and draw an arrow from each setting detail to the choice or event it affects. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the rain, fog, and wet dock affect Lena's actions in the first paragraph?	**They make Lena move carefully and grip the rail so she does not drop the medicine into the water.**
2	How does the fog shape Mr. Sato's decision and the next event in the plot?	**Because the fog hides the channel markers, Mr. Sato refuses to sail, so Lena goes to the signal tower to use the radio.**
3	How does the condition of the signal tower radio affect what Lena must do?	**Because the antenna is loose, Lena must hold it toward the window while using the radio.**
4	How does the island's geography help solve the problem?	**The sheltered side of the island gives the coast guard a safer route to deliver the medicine.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

During a heat wave, Noor found the community library closed because its air conditioner had failed. The shade beneath its front awning was the only cool place on the block, so she gathered the children waiting for story hour. When the librarian arrived with a box of books, Noor suggested holding the reading outside. The hot, closed building changed Noor from a disappointed visitor into the organizer of an outdoor event.

Accept answers that accurately explain a cause-and-effect relationship between a setting detail, a character's choice, and a plot event. For Part 3, accept varied settings if the response clearly includes all three elements in four sentences.