

Light Through Rain

Trace how setting, choices, and events build a theme.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.2 “Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot; provide an objective summary of the text.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline Lena's choices, circle setting details that create obstacles, and number 1, 2, and 3 the beginning, middle, and ending events that change her understanding. These marks will help you trace how the theme develops.

The Heron Lantern

- ① On the first Saturday of autumn, Lena arrived at the harbor workshop before sunrise. The town's annual Lantern Walk would begin that evening, and Lena had promised to build a paper lantern shaped like a heron. In the quiet shed, rain tapped the tin roof while she bent thin bamboo strips into a frame. When one strip cracked, she hid it under the table. Her grandfather, who organized the walk, had offered help earlier, but Lena wanted everyone to see that she could finish alone.
- ② By noon, the rain had turned the lane outside into a stream, and the workshop floor began to flood. Lena lifted her lantern frame onto a bench, but wet bamboo would not hold its shape. She tried to block the doorway with boards, losing more time each minute. Then she saw her grandfather carrying sandbags toward the neighboring shed. Instead of calling to him, Lena kept working until the second side of the frame split. The broken pieces made her realize that silence was not the same as independence.
- ③ Lena ran outside and asked her grandfather to hold the frame while she replaced the damaged strips. He called two neighbors over, and they suggested using waxed thread to strengthen the joints. Working together, they finished the heron before dusk. At the Lantern Walk, Lena carried it beside her grandfather through the damp streets. Its light shone on puddles and shop windows. Lena still felt proud of her careful work, but she understood that asking for support had helped her keep her promise.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 State one theme of the passage in a complete sentence.

2 How do the rainy harbor setting and the flooded workshop affect Lena's problem and the plot?

3 What event changes Lena's thinking? Explain how this event develops the theme.

4 Write an objective summary of the passage in exactly two sentences.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Make a three-step theme trail for the passage. State a theme, give one beginning, middle, and ending detail, and explain in one sentence after each detail how it develops the theme. Then write an objective summary of 40 to 60 words.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline Lena's choices, circle setting details that create obstacles, and number 1, 2, and 3 the beginning, middle, and ending events that change her understanding. These marks will help you trace how the theme develops. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	State one theme of the passage in a complete sentence.	A theme is that asking for support can help a person meet a responsibility without taking away pride in their own work.
2	How do the rainy harbor setting and the flooded workshop affect Lena's problem and the plot?	The rain floods the workshop and makes the bamboo wet and hard to shape, increasing the difficulty of finishing the lantern and leading to the frame breaking.
3	What event changes Lena's thinking? Explain how this event develops the theme.	When the second side of the frame splits, Lena realizes that staying silent is not true independence. This leads her to ask for help, showing that accepting support can be a wise choice.
4	Write an objective summary of the passage in exactly two sentences.	Lena tries to build a heron lantern alone for the town's Lantern Walk, but rain and flooding damage its bamboo frame. After the frame breaks, she asks her grandfather and neighbors for help, and they complete the lantern before the walk.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Theme: Asking for support can help people meet responsibilities while preserving pride in their work. Beginning detail: Lena refuses her grandfather's offer because she wants to finish alone. Explanation: This choice establishes her belief that independence means avoiding help. Middle detail: Her lantern frame splits after she struggles with the flooding workshop. Explanation: The failure causes Lena to question her earlier belief. Ending detail: Lena works with her grandfather and neighbors to finish the lantern. Explanation: Their teamwork shows that support helps Lena keep her promise. Objective summary: At a harbor workshop, Lena builds a heron lantern for the Lantern Walk and refuses her grandfather's help. Rain floods the workshop, and her frame breaks. Lena asks her grandfather and neighbors to assist, and they strengthen the lantern with waxed thread before the evening walk.

Accept equivalent theme statements that connect asking for help with responsibility, independence, or cooperation and are supported by the passage. Objective summaries should include Lena's goal, the weather-related obstacle, her decision to seek help, and the completed lantern without opinions or extra details.