Red Line Flight

Trace an old story pattern in a modern scene.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.9 "Analyze how a modern work of fiction draws on themes, patterns of events, or character types from myths, traditional stories, or religious works such as the Bible, including describing how the material is rendered new."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details that may connect Eli's flight to an older traditional story. Number 1 through 4 the events that show a warning, a choice, a danger, and a result, so you can trace how the story changes an older pattern.

Above the Rooftops

(1) On the roof of their apartment building, Eli tested the carbon-fiber wings he had built for the city science showcase. His mother, an elevator mechanic, had helped him shape the frame and program its small stabilizers. Below them, traffic crawled between towers. "Keep the battery cool," she said, pointing to the temperature gauge on his wrist. "Turn back when it reaches the red line." Eli nodded, but he watched a news helicopter rise above the river and imagined his own flight higher than every rooftop.

(2) At dawn, Eli launched from the old parking garage beside the river. The wings lifted him above buses and billboards, and a live video from his wrist camera drew viewers online. When the gauge flashed red, Eli muted its alarm. He aimed toward the bright morning sky, chasing the helicopter that had become a speck. Warm air pressed against his face. Then the left stabilizer jerked, and the wing began to tilt toward the river. Far below, his mother ran along the garage roof, waving both arms.

(3) Eli remembered the red line. Instead of fighting the tilt, he cut the camera feed and used the remaining power to steer toward a ferry dock. The wings struck a canvas awning, then folded around him as he landed hard but safely. Later, Eli showed the bent frame to his mother. Together, they redesigned the stabilizers for the showcase and added a shutdown switch that activated at the red line. Their revised design stayed close to the rooftop test zone.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which traditional story does Eli's experience most likely draw on? Give two details from the passage that support your answer.

2. What pattern of events from the older story appears in Eli's experience? Describe the pattern in order.

3. What theme does Eli's experience share with the traditional story? Use one event from the passage to support your answer.

4. How does the passage make the older story new for a modern audience? Identify two modern details and explain one important change in the ending.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a myth, traditional story, or religious story not named in this sheet. In exactly three sentences, describe a modern fiction idea that carries over two elements from the older story and explain how one modern change affects its theme.

ANSWER KEY

Red Line Flight

GRADE 8 · RL.8.9

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three details that may connect Eli's flight to an older traditional story. Number 1 through 4 the events that show a warning, a choice, a danger, and a result, so you can trace how the story changes an older pattern. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which traditional story does Eli's experience most likely draw on? Give two details from the passage that support your answer.	**The myth of Icarus. Eli flies with constructed wings, ignores a parent's warning about a limit, and rises toward the bright sky before losing control.**
2	What pattern of events from the older story appears in Eli's experience? Describe the pattern in order.	**A young flyer receives a warning, chooses to go higher anyway, faces danger when the flight fails, and must deal with the result.**
3	What theme does Eli's experience share with the traditional story? Use one event from the passage to support your answer.	**Ambition can become dangerous when someone ignores wise limits. Eli mutes the red warning and keeps climbing, which causes the wing to fail.**
4	How does the passage make the older story new for a modern audience? Identify two modern details and explain one important change in the ending.	**It uses carbon-fiber wings, a battery gauge, stabilizers, a livestream, and a city setting. Unlike Icarus, Eli lands safely and learns to improve the design.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

My story draws on the myth of King Midas. A sneaker designer asks for every shoe he touches to become limited-edition gold, but he soon cannot make a pair that anyone can wear. The modern business setting changes the magic into a comment on consumer culture, while keeping the theme that greed can ruin what matters.

Accept Icarus responses that use relevant evidence from the flight, warning, rising action, and danger. For the open task, accept varied source stories if the response has exactly three sentences, identifies two carried-over elements, and explains a meaningful modern change.