The Repaired Light

Track how events build an implied message.

ELA.6.R.1.2 "Analyze the development of stated or implied theme(s) throughout a literary text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that show what Mara thinks about the lantern at different moments. Number 1, 2, and 3 beside one important detail from each paragraph that shows how the story's implied message develops.

The Festival Lantern

1 On the morning of the town's lantern festival, Mara found the old paper lantern crushed in the back of her grandfather's shop. He had planned to hang it outside, as he did every year, but a fever kept him in bed. Mara wanted to leave the broken lantern behind. It was stained, its bamboo ribs were bent, and customers were already asking for newer, brighter lights. Still, she carried it to the worktable because Grandfather had saved it for so long.

2 At first, Mara tried to hide the torn side with a strip of gold paper. When the glue dried, the patch wrinkled and peeled away. She nearly threw the lantern into the trash, but then she noticed small pencil marks inside the frame. Grandfather had written the dates of past festivals there, beginning with the year he opened the shop. Mara smoothed the paper, replaced two ribs, and stitched the tear with red thread. The repair showed, yet the lantern could hold a candle again.

3 That evening, rain swept across the square just as the festival began. Several new lanterns went dark when their batteries got wet. Mara's lantern, protected by its waxed paper, kept glowing above the shop door. People gathered beneath it while volunteers fixed the other lights. Grandfather, wrapped in a blanket, watched from the window. Mara expected him to praise her careful work. Instead, he pointed to the red stitches and said, "Now it has your year in it." Mara looked at the light and understood why he had kept repairing it.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does Mara's first reaction to the damaged lantern suggest about what she values at the beginning of the story?

2. What discovery changes Mara's view of the lantern in paragraph 2? Explain how it affects her actions.

3. How do the visible red stitches help develop the story's implied message by the end?

4. State an implied theme of the story. Use two events from different paragraphs to explain how the theme develops.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write 3 or 4 sentences about a character and a meaningful object. Show what the character thinks at the beginning, what changes that thinking, and an implied theme revealed by the character's final action.

ANSWER KEY

The Repaired Light

GRADE 6 · ELA.6.R.1.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details that show what Mara thinks about the lantern at different moments. Number 1, 2, and 3 beside one important detail from each paragraph that shows how the story's implied message develops. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does Mara's first reaction to the damaged lantern suggest about what she values at the beginning of the story?	**She sees the old, damaged lantern as less valuable than newer, brighter lights and thinks it may not be worth keeping.**
2	What discovery changes Mara's view of the lantern in paragraph 2? Explain how it affects her actions.	**She finds Grandfather's dates from past festivals inside the frame. Realizing the lantern holds history, she repairs it instead of throwing it away.**
3	How do the visible red stitches help develop the story's implied message by the end?	**The stitches show Mara's own repair. When Grandfather says the lantern has her year in it, the story shows that caring for an old object can add a new part to its history.**
4	State an implied theme of the story. Use two events from different paragraphs to explain how the theme develops.	**One implied theme is that preserving meaningful objects connects people to the past and lets them contribute to its future. Mara first sees the lantern as worn out, then discovers its festival dates, repairs it, and learns that her stitches have added her own year to its story.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At first, Eli planned to replace his scratched baseball glove because it looked old. After he saw his father's name written inside it, he cleaned and stitched the glove instead. When he used it in the final game, Eli understood that caring for an object can honor the people and memories connected to it.

Accept reasonable implied themes that are supported by events across the passage, such as valuing history, preserving memories, or adding to a shared tradition. For the open task, look for a clear change in the character's thinking and a theme inferred from actions or events.