One Drip, Three Views

Track how each voice shapes the same moment.

ELA.6.R.1.3 "Explain the influence of multiple narrators and/or shifts in point of view in a literary text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number the three narrators 1, 2, and 3, then underline one phrase in each paragraph that shows how that narrator sees the leaky-pipe event.

The Mural's New River

(1) Tasha: I had painted the bright blue river across the gym wall for three afternoons. At the unveiling, I stood behind the crowd, holding my breath. Then a leaky pipe dripped onto the river and sent a dark streak through the paint. I wanted to hide. When Eli hurried toward the ladder with a bucket, I thought he was coming to point out my mistake. The applause sounded far away, and the mural suddenly seemed like proof that I was not ready to be an artist.

(2) Eli: From the refreshment table, I saw the drip before anyone else. Tasha's face tightened, so I grabbed the bucket that held our cleaning rags. I was not trying to rescue the painting. I had helped mix the blue paint, and I knew a little water would make the river look more alive. While I climbed the ladder, I heard Tasha gasp. Her worry made sense to me, but I wished she could see what I saw, a chance to turn an accident into a rushing current.

(3) Ms. Ortiz: I had watched students plan this mural for a month, and I knew they had solved tougher problems than a drip. Before I could call for a custodian, Eli tipped the bucket slightly, and Tasha picked up a brush. Together, they widened the dark streak into a waterfall. The crowd moved closer, quiet at first, then clapped loudly. Tasha may have felt exposed, and Eli may have seen an opportunity. I saw a group learning that art does not have to follow its first plan to succeed.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does Tasha's point of view influence how you see the drip on the mural?

2. How does Eli's point of view change the meaning of his action with the bucket?

3. Compare what Tasha and Ms. Ortiz focus on after the pipe drips. How do their different points of view affect the reader?

4. What do you learn from all three narrators that you would not learn from only one narrator?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly three sentences from the point of view of a crowd member who watched the mural change. Show what the person notices and explain how this new point of view would influence the reader's understanding.

ANSWER KEY

One Drip, Three Views

GRADE 6 · ELA.6.R.1.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Number the three narrators 1, 2, and 3, then underline one phrase in each paragraph that shows how that narrator sees the leaky-pipe event. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does Tasha's point of view influence how you see the drip on the mural?	**It makes the drip seem like a painful failure because Tasha thinks it proves she is not ready to be an artist.**
2	How does Eli's point of view change the meaning of his action with the bucket?	**It shows that Eli is not criticizing or rescuing Tasha. He sees the water as a chance to improve the river.**
3	Compare what Tasha and Ms. Ortiz focus on after the pipe drips. How do their different points of view affect the reader?	**Tasha focuses on embarrassment and a mistake, while Ms. Ortiz focuses on students solving a problem. Their views show both the personal worry and the larger success.**
4	What do you learn from all three narrators that you would not learn from only one narrator?	**You learn that the same event can feel like a failure to Tasha, an opportunity to Eli, and a lesson in teamwork to Ms. Ortiz.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At first, I thought the dark drip had ruined the river, and the room became silent. When Tasha and Eli changed it into a waterfall, I saw that they were solving the problem together. My point of view would show how the crowd's worry turned into admiration, making the mural's success feel shared.

Accept answers that explain how a narrator's feelings, knowledge, or role changes the reader's understanding of the same event. For the open task, accept any three-sentence crowd-member perspective that includes observations and explains its influence.