# Maps After Rain

Analyze setting, conflict, and character change in a short story.

**ELA.6.R.1** "Reading Prose and Poetry"

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline details that show the setting, circle actions that reveal Mara's character, and number 1, 2, and 3 beside events that show how her conflict changes.

### The Library Steps

1 On the first Saturday after the river flooded, Mara stood outside the town library with a box of damp books at her feet. Mud coated the steps, and a brown waterline crossed the brick wall like a crooked ruler. Inside, the lights were out, but the narrow windows gave enough gray morning light to see. Mara had volunteered to help, though her friends were meeting at the dry basketball court across town. She kept looking toward the court, then back at the silent building.

2 Mr. Bell, the librarian, handed Mara a stack of warped maps. "These can still be useful," he said. Mara wanted to tell him that nobody would care about old maps when the gym had free snacks and music. Instead, she spread the maps across a table and carefully separated their stuck corners. A gust pushed rain through a cracked window, soaking the last dry map. Mara grabbed a towel and pressed it over the paper, but a dark stain widened beneath her hands.

3 By noon, the clouds broke apart, and a group of children splashed up the library steps. They had come looking for a place to charge their parents' phones. Mara led them to the back room, where an emergency battery powered one outlet. While they waited, she opened a map of the town and showed them which streets had stayed above water. Mr. Bell smiled. Mara still heard faint music from the gym, but she no longer turned toward it. She pinned the dried maps near the door for anyone who needed them.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the flooded library setting create a problem for Mara?

2. What character trait does Mara show when she works on the maps instead of going to the gym? Use two details from the story.

3. What is Mara's conflict, and how does it change by the end of the story?

4. How does the arrival of the children change the importance of the maps?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence scene about a character facing a choice during bad weather. Include a setting detail, show the character's conflict, and end with an action that reveals a character trait.

ANSWER KEY

# Maps After Rain

GRADE 6 · ELA.6.R.1

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details that show the setting, circle actions that reveal Mara's character, and number 1, 2, and 3 beside events that show how her conflict changes. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | How does the flooded library setting create a problem for Mara? | **The flood has damaged the library, soaked the maps, cut the lights, and let rain enter, making Mara's work difficult.** |
| 2 | What character trait does Mara show when she works on the maps instead of going to the gym? Use two details from the story. | **Mara is responsible and helpful. She separates the maps' stuck corners and tries to protect the last dry map with a towel.** |
| 3 | What is Mara's conflict, and how does it change by the end of the story? | **Mara wants to join her friends at the gym but also wants to help at the library. By the end, she chooses to help others and no longer turns toward the gym.** |
| 4 | How does the arrival of the children change the importance of the maps? | **The maps become useful because Mara uses them to show the children which streets stayed above water.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Wind rattled the shutters of the small bus station as Eli waited with his violin case. He could catch the last bus home, or stay to help an elderly passenger whose ticket had blown into a puddle. Eli missed the bus while he searched beneath the benches, but he found the ticket and called the passenger's daughter. As rain tapped the roof, he understood that being late mattered less than leaving someone alone.

Accept answers that accurately explain how setting, conflict, events, and characterization work together, with relevant passage details. For the open response, accept varied scenes that include all required elements and clearly show a character trait through an action.