Signal Through the Storm

Trace how a difficult setting shapes choices and events.

ELA.7.R.1.1 "Analyze the impact of setting on character development and plot in a literary text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that describe the setting, then number three actions Lena takes because of those conditions. Use your marks to trace how the setting changes her choices and the events of the story.

Hollow Point

1 By dusk, Lena reached the ranger station at Hollow Point, expecting lights and a radio. Instead, the building stood empty beside a flooded trail, its windows dark and its door swinging in the wind. Rain struck the roof hard enough to hide distant sounds. Lena had planned to wait for her brother, who was hiking back from Eagle Ridge, but the rising water made the trail unsafe. She stepped inside, hoping the station's radio could reach him.

2 The radio crackled, and Lena contacted dispatch before the station generator sputtered out. The dispatcher said a rescue team could not cross the washed-out bridge until morning. In the sudden darkness, Lena first gripped the radio and imagined every danger her brother might face. Then she noticed a wall map, a box of flares, and an old supply log. Because the storm had cut off easy help, she stopped waiting for someone else to solve the problem and began studying the map.

3 On the map, Lena found an emergency bell at a nearby lookout above the flood line. She tied a rope around her waist, followed the marked route, and rang the bell in short bursts between gusts. Near midnight, her brother answered with a whistle from the ridge. Lena used the remaining flares to show him the safer path to the lookout. When the rescue team arrived at dawn, both hikers were sheltered there, listening as rain tapped the metal roof.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the empty station and the nighttime storm affect Lena's decision at the end of the first paragraph?

2. How does Lena change in the second paragraph after she learns that the rescue team cannot cross the bridge? Use one detail from the passage.

3. How do the washed-out bridge and the loss of generator power shape the plot?

4. How does the lookout's setting help move the story toward its resolution?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence analysis of how the setting affects both Lena's development and the plot. Include at least two setting details from the passage and explain how each detail leads to an action or event.

ANSWER KEY

Signal Through the Storm

GRADE 7 · ELA.7.R.1.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details that describe the setting, then number three actions Lena takes because of those conditions. Use your marks to trace how the setting changes her choices and the events of the story. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the empty station and the nighttime storm affect Lena's decision at the end of the first paragraph?	**The empty station offers no ranger to help, and the storm makes the trail unsafe, so Lena goes inside and tries to use the radio instead of waiting outside.**
2	How does Lena change in the second paragraph after she learns that the rescue team cannot cross the bridge? Use one detail from the passage.	**She changes from anxiously waiting for help to taking charge. She studies the map and supplies to make her own plan.**
3	How do the washed-out bridge and the loss of generator power shape the plot?	**The bridge prevents the rescue team from arriving until morning, and the darkness pushes Lena to look for the map, flares, and another way to help her brother.**
4	How does the lookout's setting help move the story toward its resolution?	**Because the lookout is above the flood line and has an emergency bell, Lena can signal her brother and guide him to a safer shelter.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At Hollow Point, the empty station and rising water make Lena realize that waiting for a ranger will not keep her brother safe. The storm also prevents the rescue team from crossing the bridge, so she must search the station for another plan. The map leads her to the lookout, where the higher ground and emergency bell allow her to communicate with her brother. These setting challenges change Lena from someone who expects help into someone who acts carefully, and they move the plot toward the rescue.

Accept answers that accurately connect specific setting details to Lena's changing choices and to later events. For the open response, students may use different details if they explain both character development and plot impact.