Storm at the Terminal

Track how setting and character choices move a plot.

ELA.9.R.1 "Reading Prose and Poetry"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details about the setting, circle choices Lio makes, and number three plot events that result from a setting detail. Use your marks to notice how the setting shapes Lio and the action.

The Last Ferry

1. By the time Lio reached the old ferry terminal, rain had turned the boardwalk silver and slick. The last boat to Harbor Point was scheduled to leave in twenty minutes, but the terminal doors were chained after a storm damaged the roof. Through a cracked window, Lio saw Mrs. Vega, the ticket clerk, trying to lift a fallen sign away from the radio cabinet. Lio had promised his younger sister that he would bring their grandmother's medicine home tonight. He hesitated at the flooded entrance, listening to wind shove waves against the pilings.

2. Lio could have called his sister and waited under the awning, yet the weak glow from the radio cabinet made him step through the broken side window. Inside, water dripped through the ceiling onto rows of empty benches. Mrs. Vega pointed to the sign pinning the radio's power cord. Together they shoved it aside, but the radio gave only a burst of static. Then Lio noticed a hand-cranked emergency lantern on a shelf. He carried it to the dock, where its steady beam cut through the rain and caught the captain's attention.

3. The captain held the boat at the dock while Lio returned to help Mrs. Vega move the radio above the rising water. When the terminal lights finally failed, the lantern became their only light. Its small circle showed Lio the loose roof panels and the narrow, dry path back to the dock. He boarded last, soaked and shivering, with the medicine safe inside his jacket. As the ferry pulled away, he saw Mrs. Vega use the lantern to guide two stranded cyclists toward the terminal. What had first seemed like a ruined building had forced Lio to act, then gave him a way to help.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the storm-damaged terminal create Lio's initial conflict and affect his first decision?

2. How does Lio change from the beginning to the end of the passage? Use two details from the text.

3. Explain how the terminal's conditions lead to the captain holding the ferry at the dock.

4. How does the terminal's role in the plot change by the final paragraph?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 4 to 6 sentence scene in which a setting creates a problem and pushes a character toward a decision that advances the plot. Include at least two concrete setting details and show what the character chooses to do.

ANSWER KEY

Storm at the Terminal

GRADE 9 · ELA.9.R.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details about the setting, circle choices Lio makes, and number three plot events that result from a setting detail. Use your marks to notice how the setting shapes Lio and the action. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the storm-damaged terminal create Lio's initial conflict and affect his first decision?	**The damaged terminal is closed and flooded, which threatens Lio's chance to catch the ferry with the medicine. Instead of waiting outside, he decides to enter through a broken window.**
2	How does Lio change from the beginning to the end of the passage? Use two details from the text.	**Lio begins by hesitating at the flooded entrance. By the end, he takes initiative by using the lantern, helping Mrs. Vega, and boarding only after the medicine is safe.**
3	Explain how the terminal's conditions lead to the captain holding the ferry at the dock.	**The damaged terminal prevents the radio from working, so Lio uses an emergency lantern. Its beam cuts through the rain and catches the captain's attention.**
4	How does the terminal's role in the plot change by the final paragraph?	**At first, the terminal is an obstacle that blocks Lio's route. By the end, the lantern and dry path inside it help Lio, Mrs. Vega, and the stranded cyclists.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Fog rolled across the empty soccer field, hiding the path to the parking lot. Nia gripped her wet cleats and considered waiting for her father beside the locked gate. Then she heard a younger player crying near the dark bleachers. Using her phone's flashlight, Nia followed the muddy sideline and found him searching for his backpack. She chose to stay, and together they reached the coach's office, where they called their families.

Accept responses that explain a cause-and-effect relationship among setting, Lio's choices, and plot events. For the open task, accept any coherent scene with a setting-based problem, two specific setting details, and a character decision that moves the action forward.