

Light Beyond Walls

Trace how setting, symbols, and change shape a scene.

11.TT.1.e “Effectively apply a variety of narrative techniques to develop complex character(s) who change, use setting to create mood, develop an idea or theme across the text using metaphors and symbolism, achieve specific purposes...”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline setting details that create mood, circle each reference to light or the EXIT sign, and number three moments that show Mara's view of her father changing. Use your marks to trace how the scene develops an idea about memory and connection.

The Last Showing

- ① By the time Mara reached the shuttered Rialto, rain had turned the sidewalks into black mirrors. The city planned to demolish the theater at dawn, and her father, its last projectionist, had asked her to collect his tools. She had agreed only because refusing would invite another argument. Inside, damp velvet breathed out the smell of dust and old perfume. A single EXIT sign glowed above the lobby, washing the cracked ticket window in red. Mara gripped the brass key he had left on the counter, wishing it opened a door to somewhere else.
- ② Her father stood in the projection booth, sorting reels into boxes. “The place is finished,” Mara said, louder than she meant to. He did not argue. Instead, he threaded one final strip of film through the projector and handed her a flashlight. The beam cut through the booth's gray air like a narrow bridge. Onscreen, a silent image flickered: Mara at seven, asleep against his shoulder during a late show. She remembered waiting for him to choose work over her, year after year. Yet the image showed his coat wrapped around her and his hand shielding her eyes from the light. Her anger loosened, though it did not disappear.
- ③ When the film snapped, darkness swallowed the screen. Mara almost laughed, expecting her father to curse, but he set the broken strip beside the brass key. “I kept this place alive too long,” he said. “I thought the light mattered only if I made it.” Mara looked through the rain-streaked booth window at the red EXIT sign. It no longer seemed like an order to leave. It looked like a small ember refusing the wet night. She placed the key in his palm, then picked up a reel. “Show me how to mend it,” she said. Together, they joined the film, carrying its light beyond the walls.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How do two setting details in the first paragraph create a mood before Mara speaks to her father?

2 What memory complicates Mara's anger toward her father, and how does it affect her?

3 How does the meaning of the EXIT sign change by the final paragraph?

4 How do the "narrow bridge" metaphor and Mara's final action develop an idea about connection?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a 120 to 150 word scene about a character meeting someone after a strained relationship. Use setting details to create a clear mood, repeat one concrete object as a symbol, include one metaphor, and show the character's attitude changing by the end.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline setting details that create mood, circle each reference to light or the EXIT sign, and number three moments that show Mara's view of her father changing. Use your marks to trace how the scene develops an idea about memory and connection. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do two setting details in the first paragraph create a mood before Mara speaks to her father?	The rain-darkened sidewalks, damp velvet, dust, and red EXIT sign create an uneasy, neglected mood that suggests the theater is near its end.
2	What memory complicates Mara's anger toward her father, and how does it affect her?	She sees herself asleep against his shoulder while he protects her from the projector light. The memory reveals his care, so her anger loosens even though it remains.
3	How does the meaning of the EXIT sign change by the final paragraph?	At first, it suggests escape because Mara wants to leave. Later, it looks like an ember, symbolizing a small but persistent hope or legacy.
4	How do the "narrow bridge" metaphor and Mara's final action develop an idea about connection?	The flashlight beam is a bridge between Mara and her father. By asking him to teach her to mend the film, Mara chooses to rebuild a connection and carry the theater's meaning forward.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the bus station, Devon held his grandmother's blue umbrella shut, even though rain struck the roof in silver bursts. He had come to meet her after three years of ignored calls, not to forgive her. The empty plastic seats and sputtering lights made the room feel like a waiting lung. When she arrived, limping and smaller than he remembered, she offered him a paper bag of his favorite sesame rolls. Devon almost refused. Then he noticed the umbrella's crooked handle, repaired with the same green tape she had used after walking him home from school. He opened it over both of them as they stepped outside. The umbrella was no longer a shield he wanted to hold alone, but a small roof they could choose to share.

Accept supported interpretations of the key, EXIT sign, light, and setting mood. In the writing task, look for an evident character shift, purposeful setting, a recurring symbolic object, and a metaphor that supports the scene's idea.