

Shelter in Stories

Read how narrative details reveal a place's changing meaning.

12.P.EICC.2.a “Share real or imagined experiences by interpreting and constructing texts that tell or include stories. (I/C)”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details that show the library becoming more than a place to borrow books. Circle the final sentence of each paragraph to trace how the narrator's understanding changes.

The Library After the Storm

- ① At 6:12 on the first Monday after the storm, the library's front doors opened without their familiar bell. I was shelving returns when rainwater slid under the threshold and pooled around my shoes. Outside, the streetlights were dark, but a line of neighbors curved past the bike rack. They carried flashlights, thermoses, and folded camping chairs. Mr. Alvarez, who usually complained about late fees, held a cardboard sign that read, “Phone charging upstairs.” I understood then that people had not come for books alone. They had come looking for a room that still felt connected to the rest of the city.
- ② By noon, the children's room had become a quiet station for news. A nurse taped a handwritten map beside the puppet theater, showing where ice and bottled water were being distributed. My supervisor asked me to read aloud the city's emergency updates, then translate the confusing parts into ordinary language. Each time the power flickered, everyone looked toward the windows. When it failed completely, a teenager named Nia placed her battery lantern on the circulation desk. Its small blue light made the overdue notices and library cards seem briefly important, as if keeping track of one another were also a kind of shelter.
- ③ Near closing, a man in a soaked suit stood by history shelves, staring at a photograph of the river flood of 1952. “My grandmother was here for that,” he said, though he did not seem to be speaking to me. I found an oral-history recording in the archive and played it on a public computer. An elderly voice described strangers passing soup through a church window. The man listened until the generator outside coughed to life. Before leaving, he copied the recording's title onto a damp receipt. I realized that stories preserve facts. They give frightened people evidence that others have endured, helped, and begun again.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What new purpose does the narrator recognize for the library in paragraph 1? Use one detail from the paragraph to support your answer.

2 How does Nia's lantern help develop the story's idea of shelter in paragraph 2?

3 What does the man copying the oral-history title onto his receipt suggest about why the recording matters to him?

4 How does the narrator's understanding of stories change from paragraph 1 to paragraph 3?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a 180 to 220 word, three-paragraph narrative about a time a familiar place took on a new meaning during a problem, change, or community event. Include at least two sensory details, one object that carries meaning, and a final sentence explaining what the experience revealed to the narrator.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three details that show the library becoming more than a place to borrow books. Circle the final sentence of each paragraph to trace how the narrator's understanding changes. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What new purpose does the narrator recognize for the library in paragraph 1? Use one detail from the paragraph to support your answer.	The narrator sees the library as a place for connection during the storm, not only for books. Neighbors bring flashlights and chairs, and Mr. Alvarez offers phone charging upstairs.
2	How does Nia's lantern help develop the story's idea of shelter in paragraph 2?	The lantern gives light during the outage and makes ordinary library materials seem important. It suggests that shared care and organization can provide shelter.
3	What does the man copying the oral-history title onto his receipt suggest about why the recording matters to him?	It suggests that he wants to keep or find the story again because it connects his grandmother's experience to the present emergency.
4	How does the narrator's understanding of stories change from paragraph 1 to paragraph 3?	At first, the narrator understands that the library can connect people. By the end, the narrator realizes that stories also preserve evidence of endurance and mutual help.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On the morning our apartment building lost heat, I crossed to the laundromat because its windows glowed across the street. Usually, I hurried past, bothered by the warm, soapy air that escaped through the door. Inside, dryers thumped, wet coats steamed over chairs, and Mrs. Chen had set out a kettle. My hands stopped aching when she gave me tea. At noon, my father arrived carrying grocery bags and a worried expression. He had searched for space heaters, but every shelf was empty. A college student showed him a weather map on her laptop, while an older man offered a child a towel for spilled crayons. Nobody had planned to meet there. Still, people shared outlets, information, and the few open chairs. The laundromat became less like a business and more like a temporary living room. That evening, the boiler was repaired, and we returned upstairs. Before leaving, I saw the child's drawing taped near the door. It showed yellow windows, blue phones, and the words "Warm place." I had thought warmth came from radiators and blankets. The picture made me understand that it can also come from people who decide not to face a hard day alone. The next week, I looked through the laundromat's glass and understood that an ordinary room could hold a neighborhood together.

Accept answers that accurately interpret how details, actions, and objects create the story's meaning, with relevant passage evidence. For the narrative, accept real or imagined experiences that meet the length, paragraph, detail, object, and concluding-reflection requirements.