Return to Calyx

Tracing inherited story patterns and purposeful changes.

12.T.T.1.d "Analyze how literary works draw on themes, event patterns, or character types from different time periods. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that connect Mara's situation to an older kind of return-and-proof story. Circle details that change what happens after her identity is proved, then number the circled details in the order they occur.

The Harbor Ledger

1 On the night the sea wall failed, Mara Vale entered Port Calyx in a salvage skiff, twelve years after leaving to chart dangerous currents. A hood of silver netting hid her face from the floodlights. At the council hall, four private water firms were bargaining for control of the city's last desalination plant. Mara's uncle had died that morning, and each firm claimed he had promised it the chair he once held. Mara did not announce herself. Instead, she listened as residents argued over ration cards, evacuation routes, and whether the harbor still belonged to the people who lived beside it.

2 Near dawn, Mara asked the firms to open the plant's manual gate, a corroded wheel mounted below the old quay. Their engineers used passwords and remote drones, but the wheel remained fixed. Mara removed the netting, knelt in black water, and tapped a sequence along the pipe: two slow strikes, one quick, then two more. The gate turned. Her uncle had taught that rhythm only to her while repairing the intake after a childhood storm. The residents recognized her before she named herself. Yet she refused the chair, placing the ledger she carried on the council table.

3 Inside were maps showing that the desalination plant could serve every district if crews repaired the broken inland pipes together. Mara proposed a temporary assembly of dockworkers, apartment tenants, engineers, and the four firms, with each group publishing its water use each week. The firms objected, expecting a winner to take the plant and its profits. Then residents began listing skills, boats, spare pumps, and safe rooftops. By sunset, the assembly had assigned repair teams and opened the ledger for public inspection. Mara left the empty chair beside the window, while the first clean water moved toward neighborhoods that had waited longest.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What event pattern from older adventure or epic stories shapes Mara's return? Cite two details from the passage.

2. What recurring character type does Mara resemble? Explain how her actions at the gate support your answer.

3. How do the drones, passwords, and desalination plant relocate an older identity-proving device into another time period?

4. What does the empty chair and the new assembly suggest about how this story changes the usual ending of a contest for authority?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

In 3 to 4 sentences, name a character type or event pattern from a literary work written before 1900. Recast it in a present-day or future setting, and explain in one sentence how your version changes its meaning.

ANSWER KEY

Return to Calyx

GRADE 12 · 12.T.T.1.d

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details that connect Mara's situation to an older kind of return-and-proof story. Circle details that change what happens after her identity is proved, then number the circled details in the order they occur. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What event pattern from older adventure or epic stories shapes Mara's return? Cite two details from the passage.	**The story uses the return of an absent claimant whose place is being contested. Mara returns after twelve years, and the firms are competing for her uncle's chair before her identity is established.**
2	What recurring character type does Mara resemble? Explain how her actions at the gate support your answer.	**Mara resembles a returning rightful leader or hero who must prove her identity. She succeeds at the manual gate by using a private rhythm that only her uncle taught her.**
3	How do the drones, passwords, and desalination plant relocate an older identity-proving device into another time period?	**They place an identity test in a technologically advanced coastal city. Mara's unique knowledge still proves her identity, but the test involves public water infrastructure rather than a traditional object or household task.**
4	What does the empty chair and the new assembly suggest about how this story changes the usual ending of a contest for authority?	**Instead of one person winning control of the chair and plant, Mara leaves the chair empty and helps create a public assembly. Authority and resources are shared through repair work and open records.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In Sophocles' Antigone, a young woman defies a ruler's order to honor her dead brother. In a present-day version, Nia releases records showing that a city algorithm has erased her brother's death from public data after officials refuse to correct it. The burial rite becomes a fight over digital memory, shifting the conflict toward citizens' control of information.

Accept equivalent descriptions of Mara as a returning claimant, concealed heir, or identity-proving hero when students support the idea with passage details. For Part 3, accept any accurate pre-1900 source and any clear adaptation that identifies both the borrowed element and a meaningful change.