Puddle Boat Choices

Notice how an author uses details to shape a character's choices.

2.P.AC.1 "Reading like a Writer: Interpret texts through the author's lens by identifying, analyzing, and evaluating craft techniques that are connected to the responses, thoughts, decisions, and questions triggered by the text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words that make the puddle seem scary. Circle the sentence that shows Mina decides to let her boat sail, then notice how the author changes the mood.

Mina's Paper Boat

1. Mina carried a paper boat to the park after rain. A wide puddle covered the path. Plink, plink, drops tapped the boat's roof. Mina stopped. Could her tiny boat sail across the puddle?

2. She set the boat at the edge. It bobbed once, then twice. The dark water swirled around it like a slow, hungry snake. Mina pulled her hand back. "I should not let it go," she whispered.

3. Then a yellow leaf floated by, turning gently in the water. Mina watched it reach the other side. She smiled and gave her boat a little push. "Sail, little boat, sail!" The boat danced across the puddle.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. The author says the water was like "a slow, hungry snake." What feeling does this comparison give you?

2. How does the author show that Mina changes her mind about the boat? Use details from the text.

3. Why does the author repeat the word "sail" when Mina pushes the boat?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences about a character deciding whether to do something. Use a sound word or a comparison to help the reader feel what the character feels, and underline that craft choice.

ANSWER KEY

Puddle Boat Choices

GRADE 2 · 2.P.AC.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words that make the puddle seem scary. Circle the sentence that shows Mina decides to let her boat sail, then notice how the author changes the mood. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	The author says the water was like "a slow, hungry snake." What feeling does this comparison give you?	**It makes the puddle seem scary or dangerous.**
2	How does the author show that Mina changes her mind about the boat? Use details from the text.	**At first, Mina pulls her hand back and says she should not let it go. Later, she smiles and gives the boat a push.**
3	Why does the author repeat the word "sail" when Mina pushes the boat?	**The repeated word makes the moment feel happy and excited, showing that Mina wants the boat to go.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

__Rrrr__! Thunder rolled above Eli's tent. The sky was as black as ink, so Eli zipped the tent door and stayed inside. He listened to the rain drum on the roof.

Accept answers that explain how the scary water details make Mina hesitate and how the later gentle, cheerful details support her choice. For Part 3, accept any three-sentence scene with a clear decision and an underlined sound word or comparison that adds feeling.