Dust Bowl Clues

Use context clues to understand a historical narrator.

3.P.ST.1 "Context: Develop and apply knowledge of key components of context such as background information, geographic location, cultural influences, time period, and contemporary events when interpreting and constructing texts."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline clues that tell where and when Rosa lives, circle clues about her family's culture, and write 1 beside a sentence about a problem or response happening then. These context clues help you understand her life.

A Letter During the Dust Bowl

1. May 4, 1936. Dear Luis, our farm sits near Boise City, Oklahoma, where flat fields stretch to the horizon. For months, hard winds have lifted dry soil into the air. Mama hangs wet sheets over the windows, but dust still slips inside. At school, our teacher says this dry time is called the Dust Bowl.

2. After supper, Papa plays corridos on his guitar, songs his parents brought from Mexico. We speak Spanish at home and English at school. On Sundays, neighbors meet at our small church. They share beans, tortillas, and news. Even when the sky turns brown, people bring water to families whose wells have gone dry for drinking.

3. Yesterday, a government worker spoke at the town hall. He explained ways farmers could plant grass and protect the soil. Mama said our country is trying to help families after so many crops failed. I covered my little brother's face before we walked outside. The dust can feel like a brown wall on windy days.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Where is Rosa's farm? Which description of that place helps you picture it?

2. What two clues tell you when this story takes place?

3. How do Spanish, corridos, and the Sunday meal help you understand Rosa's family and community?

4. What problem is happening in Rosa's community, and how is the government worker responding?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence journal entry set in a place and time you choose. Include clues about the location, the time period, a cultural influence, and an event happening then.

ANSWER KEY

Dust Bowl Clues

GRADE 3 · 3.P.ST.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline clues that tell where and when Rosa lives, circle clues about her family's culture, and write 1 beside a sentence about a problem or response happening then. These context clues help you understand her life. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Where is Rosa's farm? Which description of that place helps you picture it?	**Her farm is near Boise City, Oklahoma. The flat fields stretch to the horizon.**
2	What two clues tell you when this story takes place?	**The date, May 4, 1936, and the mention of the Dust Bowl.**
3	How do Spanish, corridos, and the Sunday meal help you understand Rosa's family and community?	**They show that Rosa's family uses Spanish and has Mexican cultural influences, while neighbors gather to share food and news.**
4	What problem is happening in Rosa's community, and how is the government worker responding?	**Dry soil and failed crops are hurting families. The worker explains how planting grass can help protect the soil.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In 1910, I live in a fishing village on Japan's coast. My family takes off our shoes at the door and eats rice with chopsticks. Today, a storm warning sends the fishing boats back to shore.

Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text. Accept answers that use passage details to explain location, time, culture, and events, even if students use different wording. For the journal entry, accept any clear three-sentence response with all four context clues.