Rainy Day Choices

Notice how a writer guides a reader through a choice.

4.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 weather vivid, circle the question Maya asks herself, and put a 1 beside each very short sentence. These choices help show what Maya thinks, feels, and decides.

The Dry Books

1 On Tuesday afternoon, Maya carried a stack of library books home. Clouds pressed low over the street, and the wind tugged at the book covers. At the corner, rain began to tap, tap, tap on the sidewalk. Maya hugged the books to her chest. "Please wait," she whispered to the sky. The bus stop was still two blocks away.

2 Then the rain changed from taps to drums. Water rushed along the curb like a tiny river. Maya looked at the dark clouds, then at the dry library book on top. Should she run? If she ran, the pages might get wet. If she stayed, she might miss the bus. She spotted the bright awning of Mr. Lee's bakery across the street.

3 Maya dashed beneath the awning. Safe at last. Mr. Lee held the bakery door open, and warm cinnamon air floated outside. "You can wait here," he said. Maya smiled and placed the books on a chair far from the door. Soon, the bus splashed to the curb. Maya climbed aboard with dry books, but she kept thinking about the kind baker.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the repeated words “tap, tap, tap” and the later word “drums” change the way you picture the rain?

2. Why does the author include the question “Should she run?” followed by two sentences beginning with “If”?

3. What effect does the very short sentence “Safe at last” have after Maya reaches the bakery?

4. Which details help the author show that Mr. Lee is kind? Explain how the details shape your opinion of him.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five-sentence scene about a character making a careful choice. Include one sensory detail, one question, and one sentence with three words or fewer, then end with a sentence that explains how your choices guide the reader’s feelings.

ANSWER KEY

Rainy Day Choices

GRADE 4 · 4.P.AC.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words that make the weather vivid, circle the question Maya asks herself, and put a 1 beside each very short sentence. These choices help show what Maya thinks, feels, and decides. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the repeated words "tap, tap, tap" and the later word "drums" change the way you picture the rain?	**They make the rain seem as if it starts gently and then becomes much heavier and louder.**
2	Why does the author include the question "Should she run?" followed by two sentences beginning with "If"?	**These choices show Maya weighing two problems, helping the reader feel the tension of her decision.**
3	What effect does the very short sentence "Safe at last" have after Maya reaches the bakery?	**It gives the reader a quick feeling of relief because Maya and the books are out of the rain.**
4	Which details help the author show that Mr. Lee is kind? Explain how the details shape your opinion of him.	**He holds the door open and lets Maya wait inside. These helpful actions make him seem caring.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The icy path glittered under Jonah's boots. Should he cross the bridge before dark? He waited. Jonah chose the longer sidewalk, where streetlights shone. I used the question and short sentence to make readers worry, then feel that Jonah made a careful choice.

Accept answers that name a specific craft choice and connect it to a reasonable reader response, character thought, or decision. For the open task, check for all required features and an explanation of the intended effect.