Light in the Fog

Trace a theme through character choices.

4.T.T.1.c "Identify and describe common themes in texts (e.g., good vs. evil) that are revealed through details about characters. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline Mara's helpful actions and circle Venn's choices, then use your marks to figure out the story's theme.

The Harbor Lantern

1 On a foggy evening, Mara carried her grandfather's brass lantern along the harbor path. The town needed its light to guide fishing boats past the rocks. At the dock, she met Venn, a shopkeeper who had hidden extra lamp oil in his storeroom. "I will sell it tomorrow when the price is higher," he said, locking the door.

2 Mara looked toward the water, where two small boats bobbed in the gray waves. Instead of arguing, she set her lantern on a post and ran to her neighbors' houses. She asked each family for a spoonful of oil. Some gave little, but Mara thanked them all. Soon, she filled the lantern and placed it at the end of the pier.

3 The light shone through the fog until every boat reached shore. Venn watched families welcome the wet, tired fishers home. His own brother stepped from the last boat and hugged him. Venn unlocked his storeroom and gave the remaining oil to the town. He knew that keeping supplies for himself had nearly left people in danger.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is one theme of "The Harbor Lantern"?

2. What are two actions Mara takes that help reveal the theme?

3. How do Venn's choices change from the beginning to the end of the story? What does this change reveal?

4. How does seeing his brother return safely help Venn understand the story's theme?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence mini-story that shows a theme about honesty, kindness, courage, or fairness. Include at least two character actions that reveal the theme, and state the theme in your last sentence.

ANSWER KEY

Light in the Fog

GRADE 4 · 4.T.T.1.c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline Mara's helpful actions and circle Venn's choices, then use your marks to figure out the story's theme. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is one theme of "The Harbor Lantern"?	**A community is safer when people help one another instead of putting personal profit first.**
2	What are two actions Mara takes that help reveal the theme?	**She asks neighbors for oil and places the filled lantern at the end of the pier.**
3	How do Venn's choices change from the beginning to the end of the story? What does this change reveal?	**At first, Venn hides oil so he can earn more money. At the end, he gives the oil to the town, showing that helping people matters more than profit.**
4	How does seeing his brother return safely help Venn understand the story's theme?	**Venn realizes that his hidden oil could have left people, including his brother, in danger, so he chooses to help the town.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Jalen found a wallet under the bleachers after practice. Although he wanted a new baseball glove, he took the wallet to the office and asked the coach to help find its owner. When Mrs. Chen thanked him, Jalen returned every dollar. The theme is that honesty matters more than getting something you want.

Accept any clearly stated theme that is supported by character details from the passage. For Part 3, accept a four-sentence story with two relevant actions and a final sentence that states a matching theme.