Craft in Action

Notice how craft shapes a character's choices.

5.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 or phrases that show Lena's thoughts or feelings. Circle details that influence what she decides to do, and number the three moments when her understanding of the box changes.

The Box Beneath the Vines

1 At the edge of the community garden, Lena found a wooden box tucked beneath bean vines. A silver latch held it shut, and rain tapped the lid like tiny fingers. Lena had come to pick tomatoes for her grandmother, but the box made her pause. Who had hidden it there, and why? She glanced toward the garden gate, where the other volunteers were leaving.

2 Lena reached for the latch, then pulled her hand back. Her grandmother always said, "Ask before you open what is not yours." The words rose in Lena's mind as clearly as the smell of wet soil. Still, the box seemed to whisper, Open me. Lena imagined maps, seeds, or a note from someone who needed help. She decided to carry it to the garden office instead.

3 In the office, Mr. Ortiz smiled when he saw the box. "That is our seed library," he said. Inside were labeled packets and a notebook. Gardeners borrowed seeds, planted them, and later returned new seeds from their harvests. Lena laughed softly. The mystery had not held a treasure map, yet it held something better: a plan for sharing. She wrote her name in the notebook and chose three sunflower seeds.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What comparison does the author use to describe the rain on the box? How does this comparison affect the mood of the opening?

2. Why does the author include Lena's question, "Who had hidden it there, and why?"

3. How do Lena's grandmother's words affect Lena's decision about the box?

4. Why does the author contrast a "treasure map" with "a plan for sharing" near the end?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence scene about a character who finds something unusual. Include a question, a comparison using like or as, and a decision that shows how the character responds.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 5 · 5.P.AC.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words or phrases that show Lena's thoughts or feelings. Circle details that influence what she decides to do, and number the three moments when her understanding of the box changes. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What comparison does the author use to describe the rain on the box? How does this comparison affect the mood of the opening?	**The rain "tapped the lid like tiny fingers." This makes the box seem alive or mysterious.**
2	Why does the author include Lena's question, "Who had hidden it there, and why?"	**The question shows Lena's uncertainty and introduces the mystery of the box.**
3	How do Lena's grandmother's words affect Lena's decision about the box?	**The words remind Lena not to open something that is not hers, so she takes the box to the garden office.**
4	Why does the author contrast a "treasure map" with "a plan for sharing" near the end?	**The contrast shows that Lena's expectations change and that the seed library's sharing plan is the real treasure.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the bus stop, Omar spotted a red mitten beneath the bench. The mitten glowed in the puddle like a small flag, and he wondered, "Who lost it?" Instead of taking it home, Omar carried it to the school office so its owner could find it.

Accept answers that identify the stated craft choices and explain their effects using details from the passage. For Part 3, accept any original three-sentence scene that includes a question, a like or as comparison, and a character decision connected to the discovery.