Clues Around Aiko

Use setting, culture, and history to interpret a story.

5.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 details that tell where or when the story happens. Circle details about family culture or events outside the family that affect what happens.

Aiko's Suitcase

1. In April 1942, twelve-year-old Aiko Tanaka lived with her family in Seattle, Washington. Their neighborhood stood near Puget Sound, where fog rolled over the docks each morning. Aiko's father repaired fishing nets, and her mother grew daikon and beans behind their house. At home, the family spoke Japanese and English and removed shoes at the door.

2. One afternoon, a notice arrived at the corner grocery. It said that people of Japanese ancestry had to report for removal. Neighbors read it silently beneath a map of the Pacific Ocean. Aiko heard adults use the words “war” and “orders.” Her brother Kenji folded their father's fishing map and placed it inside a suitcase.

3. On the morning they left, Aiko carried her school photograph and a small jar of seeds. The train station smelled of coal smoke and wet wool. Families waited with tags pinned to their coats. Aiko watched gulls circle above the harbor until the train moved south. She kept one hand over the suitcase that held Kenji's map.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the Seattle waterfront setting help explain what Aiko's father does for work?

2. What two details show the Tanaka family's culture at home?

3. What historical situation is suggested by the notice, the date, and the words “war” and “orders”?

4. What can you infer about why Kenji packs a suitcase after the notice arrives? Use details from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence scene about a character in a different time and place. Include a geographic detail, a family or cultural detail, and a major event, then show how one of those details affects the character's action or feeling.

ANSWER KEY

Clues Around Aiko

GRADE 5 · 5.P.ST.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details that tell where or when the story happens. Circle details about family culture or events outside the family that affect what happens. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the Seattle waterfront setting help explain what Aiko's father does for work?	**Seattle is near docks and the harbor, where fishing happens, so Aiko's father repairs fishing nets.**
2	What two details show the Tanaka family's culture at home?	**They speak Japanese and English, remove shoes at the door, and grow foods such as daikon. Any two details are correct.**
3	What historical situation is suggested by the notice, the date, and the words “war” and “orders”?	**The passage suggests the wartime forced removal of people of Japanese ancestry, including Japanese Americans, during World War II.**
4	What can you infer about why Kenji packs a suitcase after the notice arrives? Use details from the passage.	**Kenji expects the family must leave home because the notice orders people of Japanese ancestry to report for removal.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In July 1969, Luis lived in Houston, Texas, near the Manned Spacecraft Center. His family ate tamales while listening to radio reports about Apollo 11 traveling to the Moon. After hearing the news, Luis drew a rocket and planned to visit the library for books about space.

Accept reasonable inferences that use passage details about place, culture, and wartime removal. For Question 3, accept references to World War II and the forced removal or incarceration of Japanese Americans.