Stormy Map Mystery

Trace how story elements shape the plot.

5.T.T.1.b "Analyze how setting, events, conflict, and characterization contribute to the plot. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details about the storm and museum, circle Lena's actions or thoughts, and number three events that move the problem toward its solution.

The Signal Room

1. On Saturday afternoon, Lena volunteered at the Harbor Museum, a small building beside a rocky beach. Gray clouds covered the sky, and wind slapped rain against the tall windows. Before closing, Lena noticed that the museum's new map of the bay was missing from its display case. Her uncle, the curator, was outside guiding visitors to their cars.

2. Lena remembered a boy in a yellow raincoat studying the map earlier. She wanted to search for him, but the front door had been locked because the storm had grown worse. Instead of waiting for her uncle, Lena checked the wet footprints on the tile floor. They led through the hallway to the old signal room, where a window banged in the wind.

3. Inside, Lena found the boy holding the map under his coat. He explained that rain had blown through the open window, so he had carried the map away from the display to keep it dry. Lena closed the window and helped him place the map on a high table. When her uncle arrived, Lena calmly explained what had happened, and the boy returned the map.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the storm affect both the conflict and Lena's search?

2. What does Lena's choice to follow the footprints show about her character? How does this choice move the plot?

3. What does Lena's response when she finds the boy reveal about her character, and why does it help solve the conflict?

4. Explain how the missing map, the footprints, and the boy's explanation form a chain of events that leads to the resolution.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence scene in a different setting. Include one setting detail that causes or worsens a conflict, one character action that moves the plot, and an event that begins to solve the conflict.

ANSWER KEY

Stormy Map Mystery

GRADE 5 · 5.T.T.1.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details about the storm and museum, circle Lena's actions or thoughts, and number three events that move the problem toward its solution. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the storm affect both the conflict and Lena's search?	**The storm locks the front door, making it harder for Lena to search outside, and it leaves wet footprints that lead her to the signal room.**
2	What does Lena's choice to follow the footprints show about her character? How does this choice move the plot?	**It shows that Lena is observant and takes action. Following the footprints leads her to the boy and the missing map.**
3	What does Lena's response when she finds the boy reveal about her character, and why does it help solve the conflict?	**Lena is calm and fair because she listens to the boy's explanation. This helps her learn that he was protecting the map, not stealing it.**
4	Explain how the missing map, the footprints, and the boy's explanation form a chain of events that leads to the resolution.	**The missing map creates the problem, the footprints lead Lena to the signal room, and the boy's explanation shows why he took the map and allows it to be returned.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

After school, Niko stood in the quiet gym as snow covered the parking lot. The canceled bus worried him because his sister was waiting at the library. He borrowed the office phone and called the librarian. When she said his sister was safe inside, Niko asked the custodian to drive them home.

Accept equivalent answers that clearly connect the setting, Lena's choices, and key events to changes in the plot. For the writing task, look for four sentences that include a setting-based conflict, a plot-moving action, and a beginning resolution.