Storm Map Choices

Notice how an author's choices reveal a character's thinking.

6.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 sensory details that create a mood, circle each question, and number three places where Mateo's thoughts or decisions change. These craft choices help you see why he responds as he does.

The Map After Rain

1 Mateo waited beside the town library as rain tapped the metal book return. In his backpack, a permission slip for the old lighthouse tour grew soft at the corners. He had promised his cousin Lina that he would go, but the storm made the hill look steep and slick. Then the librarian pushed open the door and held up a dry map. "The tour is canceled," she said. Mateo felt relief first, then shame. Why had he wanted the rain to decide for him? He listened.

2 Inside, Lina studied the map's blue lines. "We could still learn something," she said, pointing to a narrow creek behind the library. Mateo pictured the creek swelling, brown and fast, and his shoes sank deeper into the rug. "What if it floods?" he asked. Lina did not laugh. Instead, she found a book about the lighthouse keeper, whose journal described storms that rattled the windows but also showed sailors where to turn. Mateo read one page, then another. Could a person be careful without letting fear choose every plan?

3 By Saturday, the sky had cleared. Mateo met Lina at the library, where the wet sidewalk shone like a strip of glass. The canceled tour could not happen, yet the map still offered a route. Mateo chose the creek path only after checking it with the librarian and calling his father. At the water's edge, he saw leaves spinning in a slow circle. The creek was calm now, but he remembered its imagined roar. He folded the map carefully. Next time a storm changed his plans, what would he choose to learn instead?

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which sensory details make the storm seem dangerous to Mateo? Explain how those details help you understand his response to the canceled tour.

2. The author writes that Mateo felt "relief first, then shame." What contrast does this wording show about Mateo's thoughts?

3. The first two paragraphs include three questions. How do the questions reveal a change in Mateo's thinking?

4. The map appears in all three paragraphs. How does the author use the map to show Mateo's changing decision?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence scene about a character deciding whether to do something risky. Underline one sensory detail and circle one question that reveal the character's thoughts, then add one sentence explaining how those choices show the decision.

ANSWER KEY

Storm Map Choices

GRADE 6 · 6.P.AC.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline sensory details that create a mood, circle each question, and number three places where Mateo's thoughts or decisions change. These craft choices help you see why he responds as he does. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which sensory details make the storm seem dangerous to Mateo? Explain how those details help you understand his response to the canceled tour.	**Details such as the rain tapping, the hill looking "steep and slick," and the creek swelling "brown and fast" make the weather seem unsafe. They help explain Mateo's fear and his first feeling of relief.**
2	The author writes that Mateo felt "relief first, then shame." What contrast does this wording show about Mateo's thoughts?	**Mateo is glad he does not have to face the storm, but he also feels ashamed because he had promised Lina he would go.**
3	The first two paragraphs include three questions. How do the questions reveal a change in Mateo's thinking?	**At first, Mateo questions why he let rain make his choice. Then he worries about flooding. Finally, he considers whether he can be careful without allowing fear to control every plan.**
4	The map appears in all three paragraphs. How does the author use the map to show Mateo's changing decision?	**The map first appears when the tour is canceled, then becomes a tool for learning, and finally helps Mateo choose a safe creek path. It tracks his move from avoiding the situation to making a careful plan.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

[Underlined: The bridge boards groaned beneath Ava's boots as she gripped the cold rail.] [Circled: Should she cross before the water rose?] Ava stepped back and chose the longer trail home. The sensory detail and question show that Ava notices danger, thinks about it, and decides to avoid the bridge.

Accept answers that identify accurate text evidence and explain how a craft choice reveals Mateo's feelings, thoughts, or decisions. For Part 3, accept varied scenes if the sensory detail, question, and explanation clearly connect to the character's decision.