Letters That Speak

Use details to uncover feelings, symbols, and larger ideas.

6.P.EICC.3.f "Make, track, and support inferences about different levels of meaning within the text. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details that hint at an unstated feeling or larger idea, number them 1–3, and write a short inference beside each detail to show how the clues support your thinking.

The Theater Letters

1. On Saturday, Leena walked to the town library carrying a box of brass letters. Her grandfather had saved them from the old movie theater before it closed. At the library door, she stopped beneath a new sign that read STORIES LIVE HERE. The letters in her box were scratched, and one E had lost its middle bar. “No one needs these,” Leena said. Her grandfather did not answer. He simply held the door while she carried the box inside.

2. Inside, volunteers were making a display about places that had disappeared from town. Leena placed the letters beside a photograph of the theater’s bright marquee. A younger child pointed to the bent E and asked whether the theater had been broken. Leena started to say yes, but then she remembered crowds waiting in rain for Saturday matinees. She turned the E so its missing bar faced the wall. “It still has a story,” she said, smoothing the label twice.

3. Before leaving, Leena’s grandfather opened the box and took out a small R. He set it beside the library’s new sign, leaving a space between STORIES and LIVE. Leena laughed when she saw the message: STORIES R LIVE HERE. Her grandfather tapped the scratched letter, then pointed toward families choosing books. Leena moved the R into her pocket. On the walk home, she asked him to tell her about the first film he had watched at the theater. This time, he answered.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What can you infer about Leena's first feelings about the theater letters? Use two details from the first paragraph to support your answer.

2. Why does Leena turn the broken E so its missing bar faces the wall? What does this action suggest about her changing thinking?

3. What does Leena's grandfather communicate by placing the R in the library sign and pointing to families choosing books? Support your inference with details.

4. What larger message about old objects and places does the passage suggest? Use events from the passage to support your answer.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose one detail from the passage that you did not use in your answers above. Write exactly three sentences: state the literal detail, explain an inference it supports, and explain a deeper message the detail may suggest.

ANSWER KEY

Letters That Speak

GRADE 6 · 6.P.EICC.3.f

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three details that hint at an unstated feeling or larger idea, number them 1–3, and write a short inference beside each detail to show how the clues support your thinking. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What can you infer about Leena's first feelings about the theater letters? Use two details from the first paragraph to support your answer.	**Leena first sees the letters as unwanted and damaged. She says, "No one needs these," and notices that they are scratched and that the E is broken.**
2	Why does Leena turn the broken E so its missing bar faces the wall? What does this action suggest about her changing thinking?	**She wants to protect the letter's story while hiding its damage. Her memory of theater crowds helps her see that the letter has value beyond its appearance.**
3	What does Leena's grandfather communicate by placing the R in the library sign and pointing to families choosing books? Support your inference with details.	**He suggests that stories are still alive when people share and read them. He adds the old R to the new sign and points to families choosing books.**
4	What larger message about old objects and places does the passage suggest? Use events from the passage to support your answer.	**Old objects and places can connect people to meaningful memories and to each other. Leena begins by dismissing the letters, but later keeps the R and asks for her grandfather's theater story.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Literally, Leena's grandfather holds the library door while she carries the box inside. This suggests that he wants her to decide for herself whether the letters matter. At a deeper level, his quiet action shows that sharing history can begin by making room for someone else to discover it.

Accept reasonable inferences that are supported by accurate details from the passage. For the open task, check that the response has exactly three sentences and moves from literal meaning to an inference and then a deeper idea.