

Bread and Hope

Historical fiction in Great Depression Chicago.

6.T.PM.1.b "Read and comprehend one genre of literature from a particular time period. (I)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB As you read, underline three details that show the time period and circle one detail that shows Lena's feelings.

Bread on Saturday

- ① On Saturday morning in 1933, Lena balanced a tin pail on her bicycle handlebars and pedaled toward the Chicago bakery. Her father had been out of work since the steel mill cut its crew, and every coin mattered. At the shop, a sign offered day-old bread for three cents. Lena counted her pennies twice before choosing a loaf. She wished the small kitchen at home could smell like cinnamon instead of coal smoke and thin soup.
- ② Outside, men waited beside a brick building where a relief office gave families food tickets. Lena recognized Mr. Ortiz from upstairs, although his clean collar was frayed at the edge. He tipped his hat and said the office line was longer than yesterday. Lena wanted to ask whether he had found work, but she only held out the bread. Mr. Ortiz broke off a piece for his little girl, then promised to pay Lena back when he could.
- ③ That evening, Lena's mother spread the loaf across four plates and saved the heel for tomorrow. The radio announced that President Roosevelt was speaking again, but the family kept it low so the neighbors could sleep. Lena thought about Mr. Ortiz's promise. It did not fill the soup pot, yet it made her feel less alone. She folded the bread wrapper into a neat square and decided to carry water for Mrs. Ortiz before school on Monday.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What two details show that this scene takes place during the Great Depression?

2 How do the economic conditions affect Lena's family? Use one detail from the passage.

3 How does Lena's thinking change by the end of the passage?

4 Why is this passage historical fiction instead of a nonfiction account? Use one time-period detail and one story detail.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a 3-sentence historical-fiction scene set during the Great Depression in a different U.S. location. Include two accurate details of the era and show a character facing a problem caused by economic hardship.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

As you read, underline three details that show the time period and circle one detail that shows Lena's feelings. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two details show that this scene takes place during the Great Depression?	Possible details include the mill layoffs, the cheap day-old bread, the relief office giving food tickets, and President Roosevelt speaking on the radio.
2	How do the economic conditions affect Lena's family? Use one detail from the passage.	Money is scarce, so Lena carefully counts pennies to buy inexpensive bread, and her mother divides one loaf among four plates.
3	How does Lena's thinking change by the end of the passage?	Mr. Ortiz's promise makes Lena feel less alone, and she decides to help his family by carrying water for Mrs. Ortiz.
4	Why is this passage historical fiction instead of a nonfiction account? Use one time-period detail and one story detail.	It uses real period details, such as relief offices and Roosevelt's radio speeches, but it tells an invented story about Lena, Mr. Ortiz, and the bread.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In 1937, Mateo's family reached a migrant camp near Bakersfield, California, after leaving their drought-damaged farm in Oklahoma. His mother checked for fruit-picking jobs, but every opening had already been filled. Mateo traded a jar of peaches for a pair of shoes so he could start school on Monday.

Accept equivalent details that accurately connect the story to the Great Depression and explain how the setting affects the characters. For the writing task, accept varied locations and problems if the response has three sentences, two accurate era details, and a hardship-related conflict.