Lantern in the Fog

Track how a writer builds tension and resolution.

6.T.T.1.a "Describe how narrative techniques are used across the text to develop plot, characters, and setting. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that build the setting, circle spoken words, and number 1, 2, and 3 beside the moment trouble begins, the moment danger is greatest, and the moment the problem is solved. Use your marks to notice how narrative techniques develop Mina and the plot.

The Last Lantern

(1) At dusk, Mina carried her grandfather's brass lantern to the old footbridge. Fog curled above the river, swallowing the far bank and dampening every sound. The bridge boards groaned under her boots. "Stay on the center planks," Grandpa had told her that morning. Now his empty workshop stood behind her, its door swinging in the wind. Mina tightened her grip on the lantern handle. She had promised to light the bridge before the storm reached town.

(2) Halfway across, a sharp crack snapped through the fog. Mina froze. The lantern flame leaned sideways, then shrank to a blue bead. "Not now," she whispered. A loose board tipped beneath her left foot, and river water flashed through the gap. She remembered Grandpa's steady hands replacing boards each spring. If she turned back, the market workers might miss the safe path home. Mina lowered herself to her knees and slid the lantern ahead, one plank at a time.

(3) At the bridge's highest point, Mina saw three shadowy figures waiting on the town side. Their voices drifted across the water. "Is someone there?" called a woman. Mina lifted the lantern, shielding its flame with her palm. The light spread over the wet rails and showed a narrow line of solid boards. "Follow the light," Mina called. One by one, the workers crossed. When the first raindrops tapped the lantern roof, Mina finally breathed out. Behind her, the workshop door stopped swinging, and the bridge no longer sounded alone.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the fog, dampened sounds, and groaning boards in paragraph 1 develop the setting and the plot?

2. How do Mina's memory of Grandpa and her thought about the market workers develop her character in paragraph 2?

3. How does the writer use pacing in paragraph 2 to make Mina's crossing feel tense? Use two details.

4. How do the setting details at the end of paragraph 3 show that the plot is resolved?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

In exactly 3 sentences, explain how dialogue and one other narrative technique work across the passage to develop Mina and move the plot from danger to resolution. Include two quoted or clearly described details, one from paragraph 2 or 3 and one from a different paragraph.

ANSWER KEY

Lantern in the Fog

GRADE 6 · 6.T.T.1.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details that build the setting, circle spoken words, and number 1, 2, and 3 beside the moment trouble begins, the moment danger is greatest, and the moment the problem is solved. Use your marks to notice how narrative techniques develop Mina and the plot. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the fog, dampened sounds, and groaning boards in paragraph 1 develop the setting and the plot?	**They create a dark, risky bridge setting and establish the danger Mina must face to light the bridge.**
2	How do Mina's memory of Grandpa and her thought about the market workers develop her character in paragraph 2?	**They show that Mina is responsible and caring, so she chooses to continue even though she is afraid.**
3	How does the writer use pacing in paragraph 2 to make Mina's crossing feel tense? Use two details.	**Short actions such as "Mina froze" and the crack or loose board speed up the danger. The slow phrase "one plank at a time" emphasizes her careful, difficult progress.**
4	How do the setting details at the end of paragraph 3 show that the plot is resolved?	**The lantern reveals solid boards, the workers cross safely, the workshop door stops swinging, and the bridge no longer sounds alone.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Grandpa's warning, "Stay on the center planks," introduces the bridge as dangerous and shows that Mina listens to his advice. Later, Mina's words, "Follow the light," show that she becomes a leader when the workers need help. The fog, cracking board, and then light on solid boards change the setting from threatening to safe, moving the plot to its resolution.

Accept answers that accurately explain the effect of dialogue, setting details, pacing, Mina's thoughts, or actions on character and plot. For Part 3, require exactly three sentences, evidence from two required paragraph locations, and an explanation of how techniques work across the passage.