Storm Search

Notice how a narrator builds suspense through details, dialogue, and pacing.

6.T.T.1 "Narrative Techniques: Analyze and apply narrative techniques."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words and phrases that create a tense storm mood. Circle the spoken words, then number 1, 2, and 3 beside three moments when the search becomes more suspenseful.

The Last Lantern

(1) Rain tapped the metal roof of the boathouse as I searched for Grandpa's missing lantern. The lake slapped against the dock, and each splash sounded louder than the last. "Mara, are you in there?" my brother called from the shore. I held my breath. A thin beam of light slipped from behind a stack of life jackets, then disappeared. I had promised Grandpa I would find the lantern before the storm reached the island tonight.

(2) I stepped closer, but the floorboard groaned beneath my boot. The light flashed again, this time near the old rowboat. "It's probably a reflection," I whispered, though my hands felt cold. Outside, thunder rolled across the water. I moved one life jacket, then another, waiting after each scrape of fabric. At last, the beam pointed toward a small wooden box tucked under the rowboat's seat. My fingers paused above its rusty latch for three long seconds.

(3) Before I could open it, the boathouse door banged shut. I jumped, and the lantern beam vanished. "Mara?" my brother called again, much closer now. I lifted the lid slowly. Inside lay Grandpa's lantern, its glass cracked but dry, beside a note that read, For the next keeper of the lake. I ran to the door as the first hard rain struck the roof. When I showed my brother the note, the storm no longer seemed quite so frightening.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the details about the rain, lake, and roof in paragraph 1 create the mood?

2. What does the brother's dialogue add to the scene? Use both times he calls for Mara in your answer.

3. How does the narrator slow the pace in paragraph 2 before finding the box?

4. How does first-person narration help you understand Mara's feelings? Give one detail from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five-sentence first-person scene about searching for something important. Include one sensory detail, one line of dialogue, and a moment where you slow the action before revealing what is found.

ANSWER KEY

Storm Search

GRADE 6 · 6.T.T.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words and phrases that create a tense storm mood. Circle the spoken words, then number 1, 2, and 3 beside three moments when the search becomes more suspenseful. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the details about the rain, lake, and roof in paragraph 1 create the mood?	**They create a tense, threatening mood by making the storm sound loud and close.**
2	What does the brother's dialogue add to the scene? Use both times he calls for Mara in your answer.	**His first call shows he is looking for Mara. His second, closer call increases urgency as the suspense grows.**
3	How does the narrator slow the pace in paragraph 2 before finding the box?	**The narrator describes moving life jackets one at a time and waiting after each scrape, making the reader wait for the discovery.**
4	How does first-person narration help you understand Mara's feelings? Give one detail from the passage.	**It lets the reader experience Mara's fear directly, such as when she holds her breath or says her hands feel cold.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Backstage, the dusty curtain brushed my arm while I searched for the missing crown. "The show starts in one minute," Luis whispered. I checked beneath a costume rack, then paused when I heard a faint clink. Slowly, I reached behind a painted castle and closed my hand around cold metal. The crown was there, and I hurried toward the stage as the audience began to clap.

Accept other accurate details and explanations that connect a narrative technique to its effect on the reader. For Part 3, look for five sentences in first person, a sensory detail, dialogue, slowed action, and a clear reveal.