Lanterns and Inferences

Use details to infer feelings, community meaning, and theme.

7.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 two details that show what Lena may feel, circle one detail that suggests what the bridge means to the town, and write 1 and 2 beside details that support two different inferences.

The Last Lantern

1 On the morning the town removed the old footbridge, Lena arrived at the river before school with a paper lantern tucked under her coat. Her grandfather had built the bridge decades earlier, and neighbors had crossed it to reach the mill, the library, and one another's homes. Now orange barriers blocked both entrances. Lena did not try to climb over them. Instead, she tied the lantern to the fence and watched its blue paper tremble in the wind. A crew waited nearby with tools.

2 Mr. Ortiz, the librarian, stopped beside Lena on his way to open the library. He held a folder of petitions, but he did not offer it to her. "The new bridge will be safer," he said, looking across the water. Lena nodded, though her hands stayed in her pockets. She remembered learning to ride a bicycle on the bridge while her grandfather ran behind her, laughing. When Mr. Ortiz asked whether she wanted to save the lantern for later, Lena shook her head. "It can stay until the work begins," she said.

3 By afternoon, a small crowd had gathered on the riverbank. Some people took photos, and others added notes to the fence: "First walk to school," "Rainy-day shortcut," "Where we met." Lena read each note before the crew started. Then she lifted the lantern from its string and gave it to a child standing with his father. "Put this in the new bridge's opening-day box," she told him. As machines lowered the first wooden plank, Lena walked toward school by the longer road, holding her backpack strap tightly.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1 What can you infer about Lena's feelings when she arrives at the river? Use one detail from the passage to support your answer.

2 What can you infer from Mr. Ortiz holding petitions but not offering them to Lena?

3 What do the notes on the fence suggest the bridge meant to the town beyond being a way to cross the river?

4 What larger idea about change is suggested when Lena gives the lantern to the child for the new bridge's opening-day box?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write 3 or 4 sentences about a familiar place that is changing. Include two details that let a reader infer a character's feeling and a larger idea about change, then state both inferences.

ANSWER KEY # Lanterns and Inferences

GRADE 7 · 7.P.EICC.3.f

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details that show what Lena may feel, circle one detail that suggests what the bridge means to the town, and write 1 and 2 beside details that support two different inferences. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What can you infer about Lena's feelings when she arrives at the river? Use one detail from the passage to support your answer.	**Lena feels sad or reluctant about losing the bridge. She brings a lantern, ties it to the fence, and watches it in the wind.**
2	What can you infer from Mr. Ortiz holding petitions but not offering them to Lena?	**Mr. Ortiz may have tried to save the bridge, but he accepts that it will be replaced and does not pressure Lena to fight the decision.**
3	What do the notes on the fence suggest the bridge meant to the town beyond being a way to cross the river?	**The bridge was part of people's shared memories, routines, and relationships.**
4	What larger idea about change is suggested when Lena gives the lantern to the child for the new bridge's opening-day box?	**People can honor meaningful memories from the past while accepting and moving toward change.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the empty basketball court, Devon folded the cracked schedule and slipped it into his notebook while workers painted the fence. I infer that he feels sad about losing a familiar place because he saves the old schedule instead of throwing it away. I also infer the larger idea that changes can erase routines, but people can carry meaningful memories forward.

Accept reasonable inferences when students support them with accurate passage details. For Part 3, look for two concrete clues, a stated feeling inference, and a stated larger idea supported by those clues.