Choices Build Voice

Notice how a reader and writer takes responsibility for the next step.

8.P.EICC.1.f "Develop independence and autonomy as a reader and writer. (I/C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three places where the narrator makes a reading or writing choice. Circle two strategies the narrator uses to move forward independently.

My Next Move

1. On Monday, I opened a novel about a teen mechanic because its first page made me curious. The chapters were longer than I expected, so I did not quit or wait for someone to tell me what to do. I read for fifteen minutes, then wrote two questions on a sticky note: Why is Mara hiding the engine? What might happen at the race? The next day, I looked for answers as I read. When one answer appeared, I changed my second question instead of pretending I already understood everything.

2. Later, I drafted a review of the novel for our class blog. My first opening said only that the book was interesting. I reread the opening and decided readers needed a sharper reason to care. I replaced it with a scene in which Mara hears a strange knocking inside a locked garage. Before posting, I asked a classmate whether the review made sense, but I chose which suggestion to use. I added one sentence explaining my opinion and left out a suggestion that would have changed my honest view.

3. These choices did not make every reading or writing task easy. Sometimes I still need help, especially when a word or idea confuses me. Now, however, I try a useful step first. I reread a sentence, use nearby details, or compare my draft to the purpose I set. Then I can ask a specific question if I need to. Keeping a small list of strategies has helped me notice that independence does not mean working alone all the time. It means taking responsibility for my next move.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What did the narrator do after noticing that the novel's chapters were longer than expected?

2. Why did the narrator change one of the reading questions?

3. What change did the narrator make to the opening of the review, and why?

4. How did the narrator use a classmate's feedback while still making an independent writing decision?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Think of a recent reading or writing task. In 4 or 5 sentences, describe one choice you made, one strategy you used, and one next step you could take independently.

ANSWER KEY

Choices Build Voice

GRADE 8 · 8.P.EICC.1.f

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three places where the narrator makes a reading or writing choice. Circle two strategies the narrator uses to move forward independently. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What did the narrator do after noticing that the novel's chapters were longer than expected?	**The narrator read for fifteen minutes and wrote two questions on a sticky note.**
2	Why did the narrator change one of the reading questions?	**An answer appeared in the text, so the narrator changed the question to match new understanding.**
3	What change did the narrator make to the opening of the review, and why?	**The narrator replaced a vague statement with a scene from the novel because readers needed a sharper reason to care.**
4	How did the narrator use a classmate's feedback while still making an independent writing decision?	**The narrator asked whether the review made sense but chose which suggestion to use and rejected one that changed the honest opinion.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

While reading an article about coral reefs, I noticed that I was losing track of the main idea. I paused after each section and wrote a five-word note in the margin. For my response, I chose to begin with the problem the article explained instead of giving a vague opinion. Next time, I will check whether each detail in my response supports that main idea.

Accept equivalent answers that accurately identify the narrator's choices and strategies from the passage. For Part 3, accept a specific reading or writing situation that includes a personal choice, a useful strategy, and a realistic next step.