The Repair Shift

Track how a narrator changes through a short personal story.

8.P.EICC.2.a "Share real or imagined experiences by interpreting and constructing texts that tell or include stories. (I/C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details that show how the narrator feels or acts differently by the end. Number 1, 2, and 3 beside events that move the story forward.

Saturday at the Repair Café

(1) On Saturday morning, I carried my grandfather's dented toolbox to the repair café at the library. I had promised to help at the welcome table, but I knew almost nothing about fixing things. The room smelled of coffee and machine oil. A woman set down a lamp with a frayed cord, and a boy rolled in a bicycle with a loose chain. I wrote each problem on a card, hoping no one would ask me to solve one.

(2) Near noon, Mr. Alvarez opened the toolbox and found a small wooden plane inside. "Your grandfather used this?" he asked. I nodded, remembering the birdhouse my grandfather and I had built before his hands began to shake. Mr. Alvarez showed me how the blade shaved a curl from a scrap of pine. When the bicycle chain slipped off again, I surprised myself by kneeling beside its owner. Together, we guided the chain back onto the gears.

(3) By closing time, the lamp glowed on the worktable, and the bicycle owner rode slow circles between the book shelves. I was tired, with black grease under my fingernails, but I did not hide behind the welcome cards anymore. Before leaving, I placed the wooden plane back in the toolbox. At home, I cleaned it with a soft cloth and set it beside my desk. The next repair café was already circled on my calendar.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the narrator change from the beginning to the end of the story? Use two details from the passage.

2. What does the wooden plane reveal about the narrator's connection to the repair café?

3. Which event is the turning point, or moment when the narrator begins to act differently? Explain why.

4. Why is the final detail about the circled repair café important to the ending?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write an 80 to 100 word first-person story about entering a place or task feeling unsure and leaving changed. Include a clear setting detail, an object or memory that matters, and an ending that shows the change.

ANSWER KEY

The Repair Shift

GRADE 8 · 8.P.EICC.2.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three details that show how the narrator feels or acts differently by the end. Number 1, 2, and 3 beside events that move the story forward. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the narrator change from the beginning to the end of the story? Use two details from the passage.	**At first, the narrator hopes no one asks for help because they know little about repairs. By the end, the narrator helps fix the bicycle, no longer hides behind the welcome cards, and plans to return.**
2	What does the wooden plane reveal about the narrator's connection to the repair café?	**The plane reminds the narrator of building a birdhouse with their grandfather. It connects repairing objects to an important personal memory.**
3	Which event is the turning point, or moment when the narrator begins to act differently? Explain why.	**The turning point is when the narrator kneels beside the bicycle owner and helps guide the chain onto the gears. The narrator moves from avoiding repairs to participating in one.**
4	Why is the final detail about the circled repair café important to the ending?	**It shows that the narrator wants to return, suggesting new confidence and interest in repairing things.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the community garden, I stood beside the empty planting beds with a packet of basil seeds folded in my pocket. My aunt had given me the packet after teaching me to make soup, but I had never grown anything. The soil clung to my gloves as I pressed the seeds into a row. By afternoon, my knees ached, and the bed looked ordinary. Still, I wrote "Basil" on its small sign and planned to return alone with water tomorrow.

Accept responses that support an interpretation with accurate passage details. For Part 3, look for a focused story with a beginning situation, meaningful detail or memory, and a clear change by the ending.