Beyond the Bridge

Use details to infer events, feelings, symbols, and message.

8.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 three details that tell what is literally happening. Circle three details that suggest a deeper meaning, and write a brief inference beside each circled detail.

The Brass Key

1 On the first Saturday after the town announced that the old footbridge would be replaced, Mara rode her bike to the river. A chain blocked the entrance, and a yellow notice flapped against the rail. She had crossed the bridge for years on her way to her grandmother's apartment. Now workers had placed orange cones along the path. Mara parked her bike beside the chain and took a small brass key from the pocket of her jacket.

2 The key did not open the chain. It belonged to a wooden music box her grandmother had given her, after showing Mara how to wind its tiny handle. Still, Mara held it tightly as she read the notice: construction would begin Monday, and pedestrians should use the new path upstream. She imagined the longer walk, the river hidden by warehouses, and the bridge's boards that always creaked in the same three places. A worker nearby asked whether she needed help. Mara shook her head and slipped the key back into her pocket.

3 Before leaving, Mara knelt beside the rail and pressed the key into a crack between two boards. She knew the bridge would be torn down, and the key would not save it. Yet she wanted one small part of her journeys to remain where they had happened. Then she crossed the street to the new path. It was smooth and bright, but she did not ride right away. Instead, she walked beside her bike until the bridge disappeared behind the trees.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What can you infer about Mara's feelings toward the old bridge? Use two details from the passage to support your inference.

2. Why does Mara not ride her bike on the new path right away? What does this action suggest?

3. What might the brass key represent to Mara? Support your answer with one passage detail.

4. What broader message about change does the passage suggest? Support your answer with one detail.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences about a familiar place or object that changed. Include one concrete detail, an inference about its deeper meaning, and an explanation of how the detail supports your inference.

ANSWER KEY

Beyond the Bridge

GRADE 8 · 8.P.EICC.3.f

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three details that tell what is literally happening. Circle three details that suggest a deeper meaning, and write a brief inference beside each circled detail. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What can you infer about Mara's feelings toward the old bridge? Use two details from the passage to support your inference.	**Mara feels deeply attached to and sad about losing the bridge. She remembers its familiar creaks and leaves her brass key in the boards.**
2	Why does Mara not ride her bike on the new path right away? What does this action suggest?	**She walks because she is not ready to leave the old bridge behind. Her action suggests that the change is emotionally difficult for her.**
3	What might the brass key represent to Mara? Support your answer with one passage detail.	**The key represents Mara's connection to her grandmother and the memories connected to the bridge. It came from the music box her grandmother gave her.**
4	What broader message about change does the passage suggest? Support your answer with one detail.	**Necessary changes can still be hard because people attach memories to places. Although the new path is smooth and bright, Mara lingers instead of riding on it.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

When my neighborhood bakery closed, its blue sign stayed above the empty window for weeks. The sign suggests that the bakery was more than a store because it represented Saturday mornings with my father. Its faded letters support this inference by showing that a familiar part of those routines remained after the business was gone.

For the open task, look for a concrete detail, a deeper inference, and a clear connection between them.