After the Flood

Trace how craft moves a character from uncertainty to action.

9.P.AC.1 "Reading like a Writer: Interpret texts through the author's lens by identifying, analyzing, and evaluating craft techniques that are connected to the responses, thoughts, decisions, and questions triggered by the text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details that create the library's changing mood, circle Mina's questions or uncertain thoughts, and number 1, 2, and 3 beside moments when her response changes.

Opening Soon

1 At 6:40, Mina stood outside the closed public library with a cardboard box balanced against her hip. Inside were returned books, each stamped with a due date from the week of the flood. The streetlights trembled in the puddles, making the sidewalk look like a second, darker sky. Mina had volunteered to help reopen the library, but the locked doors made her hesitate. What if the water had ruined everything people needed? She pressed the box closer and listened to rain drip from the awning, one patient drop at a time.

2 A flashlight beam swept across the glass doors, and Mr. Ortiz, the librarian, lifted the lock. "You came," he said, as if Mina had crossed an ocean instead of a block. In the lobby, fans hummed beside tables of swollen paperbacks. Mina expected a disaster, yet she noticed labels taped to dry shelves: History. Poetry. Job Help. Someone had protected the most-used sections first. Her worry changed shape. It was no longer a heavy wall. It was a question with an answer: Where should I begin? She set the box beside the poetry cart and asked Mr. Ortiz for a cloth.

3 By eight o'clock, Mina and Mr. Ortiz had filled three carts. The library still smelled of mud, but a lamp glowed at the checkout desk, and the first clean books stood upright like small doors. A boy in a yellow raincoat peered through the entrance. Mina almost told him to return tomorrow. Then she saw him reading the sign that said OPENING SOON. "Do you need a book for school?" she called. His grin answered before he did. Mina carried a science book to the door, wondering how many other people were waiting for the lights to come back on.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the comparison of the sidewalk to "a second, darker sky" shape the mood and Mina's response in paragraph 1?

2. Why does the author say that Mr. Ortiz speaks "as if Mina had crossed an ocean instead of a block"? What does this comparison reveal?

3. How does the author use the shift from "a heavy wall" to "a question with an answer" to show a change in Mina's thinking?

4. How does the boy at the entrance influence Mina's final decision, and why is he an effective detail for the author to include?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write 80 to 100 words about entering a familiar place after it has changed. Use one sensory image, one comparison, and one question or uncertain thought to show your response shifting toward a decision.

ANSWER KEY

After the Flood

GRADE 9 · 9.P.AC.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three details that create the library's changing mood, circle Mina's questions or uncertain thoughts, and number 1, 2, and 3 beside moments when her response changes. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the comparison of the sidewalk to "a second, darker sky" shape the mood and Mina's response in paragraph 1?	**It creates a dark, uneasy mood that matches Mina's hesitation and fear about the damaged library.**
2	Why does the author say that Mr. Ortiz speaks "as if Mina had crossed an ocean instead of a block"? What does this comparison reveal?	**The comparison makes Mina's short trip seem brave and important, revealing that arriving to help matters after the flood.**
3	How does the author use the shift from "a heavy wall" to "a question with an answer" to show a change in Mina's thinking?	**The metaphor shows that Mina's worry changes from an overwhelming obstacle into a problem she can address, leading her to begin helping.**
4	How does the boy at the entrance influence Mina's final decision, and why is he an effective detail for the author to include?	**Seeing the boy waiting for a school book makes the library's need feel immediate, so Mina offers him a book instead of sending him away.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

When I entered the gym after the power outage, the floor shone with rainwater tracked in by dozens of shoes. The emergency lights made the baskets look like tall, watchful cranes. Would practice even happen? At first, I wanted to leave, because the room felt colder than usual. Then Coach Rivera rolled out towels and asked us to clear the floor together. I grabbed a stack before anyone could assign me a spot. As the puddles disappeared, the gym sounded less like a storm shelter and more like our team's home.

Accept responses that connect a specific craft choice to Mina's thoughts, feelings, or actions. For the writing task, accept varied settings and decisions if the response is 80 to 100 words and includes the required image, comparison, and uncertain thought.