Hidden Meaning

Track literal details, implied ideas, and a larger message.

9.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 tell what happens, circle two details that suggest an unstated idea, and number one detail that supports a larger message about the community.

Saturday Sign

1 On Saturday morning, Leena unlocked the door of the neighborhood tool library, a small room beside the bus stop where residents could borrow rakes, drills, and sewing kits. She had volunteered there all summer, but the shelves were usually quiet. That day, a handwritten sign hung in the window: "Roof repairs delayed. Closed next month unless we find help." Leena reread the message, then placed a dented donation jar near the door. She did not add a label. Outside, buses carried commuters past the faded brick building.

2 By noon, only three coins lay in the jar. Mr. Ortiz, who borrowed a ladder each spring, entered carrying a paper bag. Instead of taking a tool, he set down a box of unused screws. "My garage has plenty," he said. A middle school student left two paintbrushes after asking whether the library could use them. Leena thanked both visitors and wrote their names on a scrap of cardboard. Near closing time, she moved the jar behind the counter. "People may not want to be watched while they decide," she told Mr. Ortiz.

3 On Monday, the donation jar held enough money to cover the roof patch, though not a full replacement. Leena called the landlord, who agreed to match the amount if volunteers handled the painting. By Friday, neighbors had scrubbed the walls and sorted the borrowed tools. The new paint was not perfect: blue streaks crossed the doorway, and one wall remained bare. Still, when Leena locked up, she turned the window sign around. On its blank side, she wrote, "Open Saturday." The jar rested beside it, no longer dented.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does Leena's decision to leave the donation jar unlabeled suggest about how she hopes people will respond? Use one passage detail to support your inference.

2. Mr. Ortiz brings screws rather than borrowing a tool. What can you infer about his view of the tool library?

3. Why does Leena move the jar behind the counter near closing time? What does this action reveal about her?

4. What larger message about community support does the passage develop? Support your answer with two details.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose one detail that is not named in Questions 1 through 3. Write exactly two sentences. In the first sentence, state the detail's literal meaning. In the second sentence, explain what it suggests about a deeper meaning in the passage.

ANSWER KEY

Hidden Meaning

GRADE 9 · 9.P.EICC.3.f

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details that tell what happens, circle two details that suggest an unstated idea, and number one detail that supports a larger message about the community. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does Leena's decision to leave the donation jar unlabeled suggest about how she hopes people will respond? Use one passage detail to support your inference.	**She wants people to choose whether to give without pressure or public attention. The jar has no label.**
2	Mr. Ortiz brings screws rather than borrowing a tool. What can you infer about his view of the tool library?	**He sees it as a shared resource worth supporting, so he contributes materials he has.**
3	Why does Leena move the jar behind the counter near closing time? What does this action reveal about her?	**She wants people to decide privately about donating. It reveals that she respects their privacy and does not want to pressure them.**
4	What larger message about community support does the passage develop? Support your answer with two details.	**Small voluntary contributions and shared work can sustain a community resource, even when the work is incomplete. Residents give coins, screws, paintbrushes, labor, and the landlord matches the donation amount.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Literally, Leena turns the window sign around and writes, "Open Saturday." This suggests that she expects the tool library to continue because the neighbors have begun to support it together.

Accept reasonable inferences when students connect them to accurate details from the passage. For the larger message, accept ideas about voluntary help, shared responsibility, persistence, or the value of community spaces.