Radio in the Rain

Trace how setting, action, and memory shape a character's change.

9.T.T.1.e "Effectively apply a variety of narrative techniques to develop complex character(s) who change, use setting to create mood, develop an idea or theme across the text, achieve specific purposes, engage audiences, and enhance writing. (C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details that show Imani changing. Circle four setting details that create mood, then number 1, 2, and 3 beside moments that build an idea about moving forward after loss.

The Repair Bench

1 Rain tapped the metal roof of the community workshop as Imani stood beside her grandfather's old radio. The room smelled of oil and wet coats, and every tool cast a long shadow under the single bulb. For weeks, Imani had avoided the radio because she had dropped it while moving boxes after her grandfather died. Now the silent dial seemed to accuse her. When Mr. Vale, the volunteer repairer, asked whether she wanted help, Imani shoved her hands into her pockets and said, "It is probably useless."

2 Mr. Vale did not take the radio from her. Instead, he placed a screwdriver on the bench and showed her how to loosen the back panel. Imani's first turn scraped the screw, and heat climbed into her face. She nearly walked out when thunder shook the windows. Then she noticed a paper label inside the case: "For Imani's songs," her grandfather had written. She steadied the screwdriver. By the time the rain softened, she had cleaned the corroded battery contacts and asked Mr. Vale why the speaker wire was loose.

3 At closing time, the bulb above the bench flickered, but Imani did not rush to pack up. She soldered the wire while Mr. Vale held the light steady. When the radio gave a thin burst of music, she laughed once, then pressed her lips together. "Grandpa liked this station," she said. Outside, puddles reflected the workshop sign, no longer sharp and black but blurred with gold from the streetlamps. Imani wrapped the radio in her coat. Before leaving, she wrote Mr. Vale's repair steps in a notebook and asked if she could return Saturday to help another beginner.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does Imani change from paragraph 1 to paragraph 3? Use one detail from each paragraph to support your answer.

2. How does the workshop setting create a different mood at the beginning and the end of the passage? Cite one setting detail from each part.

3. How does the label from Imani's grandfather help develop her as a complex character?

4. What idea about loss or memory does the ending develop? Support your answer with two details.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 100 to 130 word scene about a character facing a setback. Use actions, dialogue, or thoughts to show the character changing, include at least two setting details that create mood, and end by implying an idea about growth without directly stating it.

ANSWER KEY

Radio in the Rain

GRADE 9 · 9.T.T.1.e

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three details that show Imani changing. Circle four setting details that create mood, then number 1, 2, and 3 beside moments that build an idea about moving forward after loss. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does Imani change from paragraph 1 to paragraph 3? Use one detail from each paragraph to support your answer.	**At first, Imani avoids the radio and calls it "probably useless." By the end, she repairs it, writes down repair steps, and asks to return to help a beginner.**
2	How does the workshop setting create a different mood at the beginning and the end of the passage? Cite one setting detail from each part.	**At the beginning, the wet coats, oil smell, long shadows, and single bulb create a heavy, uneasy mood. At the end, gold streetlamp reflections in the puddles create a warmer, more hopeful mood.**
3	How does the label from Imani's grandfather help develop her as a complex character?	**The label reveals her personal connection to the radio and her grief. Remembering that the radio was meant for her songs motivates her to keep working instead of leaving.**
4	What idea about loss or memory does the ending develop? Support your answer with two details.	**The ending suggests that remembering someone can lead to meaningful action and connection. Imani fixes the radio her grandfather valued, then plans to help another beginner.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Wind pushed dry leaves across the empty soccer field as Mateo unlocked the equipment shed. The scoreboard blinked 0-0, though the season had ended yesterday with his missed penalty kick. He reached for the bag of balls, then stopped when he saw his captain's message: Practice Saturday? "At least tell her no," he muttered. A gust rattled the chain-link fence. Mateo picked up a ball and set two cones near the goal. His first shot sailed wide. He retrieved it instead of kicking the grass. When the captain arrived, he handed her a cone. "Can you show me how you plant your foot?" By sunset, muddy prints crossed the field in two directions.

Accept supported interpretations of Imani's change, the setting's mood, and the theme. For the writing task, look for a clear character shift, purposeful setting details, and an implied idea developed through the scene.