Rainy Night Turn

Notice how a writer guides a reader's feelings through a scene.

9.T.T.1 "Narrative Techniques: Evaluate and apply narrative techniques to enhance text's appeal to audiences or achieve specific purposes."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number three spots where the writer makes you feel more worried, relieved, or curious, then write the feeling and the writer's choice, such as timing, description, action, or dialogue, beside each number.

The Garden Shed

1 At 6:12 p.m., Maya locked the community garden gate and heard a faint metallic tapping from the tool shed. Rain slid from the greenhouse roof in quick silver threads. She had promised her father she would come straight home, yet the sound came again, three taps, then silence. Maya crossed the muddy path, keeping one hand on the phone in her pocket. The shed door stood open an inch. Inside, a flashlight beam jerked across the floor. "Hello?" she called. The beam vanished. For one breath, the garden held only rain.

2 Maya pushed the door wider. A boy about eight years old crouched beside a toppled seed tray, his yellow raincoat streaked with soil. He gripped a bent wind chime, and its loose tube knocked softly against the concrete. "I dropped my key," he said. "My grandmother is waiting in the car." Maya knelt near him, but the beam from her phone showed only wet potting mix and scattered basil seeds. Then thunder rolled over the vacant lot. The boy flinched. Maya looked toward the parking area, where headlights blinked once, then went dark.

3 Maya remembered the garden map posted by the gate. The shed had a drain grate beneath the workbench, a place small things often washed into after storms. She slid the tray aside and reached toward the grate. Her fingers touched cold metal, then the square edge of a key. "Got it," she said. Outside, a car horn gave one careful beep. The boy laughed, a quick burst that seemed louder than the rain. Maya handed him the key and watched him race to the headlights. Only after the car rolled away did she notice that her own phone battery showed one percent.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. The passage does not identify the person in the shed until paragraph 2. How does this delay shape the reader's experience?

2. Compare the endings of paragraphs 1 and 2. How does the reader's concern change, and what information causes that change?

3. Why does the writer mention the garden map and the drain grate before Maya finds the key? Explain how this order affects the resolution.

4. Evaluate the final sentence. What new effect does it create after the boy leaves, and why might the writer choose not to end when the key is returned?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write an 80 to 100 word suspense scene set near a familiar place. Use at least one line of dialogue, one precise sensory detail, and one sentence with five words or fewer, then end with a new concern.

ANSWER KEY

Rainy Night Turn

GRADE 9 · 9.T.T.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Number three spots where the writer makes you feel more worried, relieved, or curious, then write the feeling and the writer's choice, such as timing, description, action, or dialogue, beside each number. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	The passage does not identify the person in the shed until paragraph 2. How does this delay shape the reader's experience?	**It creates uncertainty and suspense at first because Maya and the reader do not know who is in the shed. The later reveal shifts the concern to helping a frightened boy.**
2	Compare the endings of paragraphs 1 and 2. How does the reader's concern change, and what information causes that change?	**Paragraph 1 creates concern about an unknown flashlight holder. Paragraph 2 reveals the boy's lost key and his waiting grandmother, while the darkened headlights add urgency.**
3	Why does the writer mention the garden map and the drain grate before Maya finds the key? Explain how this order affects the resolution.	**The information makes Maya's solution believable and lets the reader anticipate where the key may be before she finds it.**
4	Evaluate the final sentence. What new effect does it create after the boy leaves, and why might the writer choose not to end when the key is returned?	**It creates a new, smaller worry because Maya's phone may die. Ending this way leaves the reader with lingering tension instead of a completely settled ending.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At closing time, I heard a bicycle bell behind the library. The alley smelled of wet cardboard and diesel. "Who is there?" I called, but no one answered. I followed the sound past the recycling bins. A red backpack lay beside a storm drain, its zipper open. Too quiet. Then a small hand reached from behind the bin and grabbed the strap. I stepped back. "Please," a voice whispered, "my brother fell." I ran toward the street, where the bell kept ringing by itself.

Accept supported explanations that accurately describe how the writer's choices affect tension, curiosity, relief, pacing, or the ending. For Part 3, accept varied settings and events if the response is 80 to 100 words and includes all required craft choices.