The Closed Bridge

One event, different views from across the creek

6-9.WG.6.1 "Explain how and why events may be interpreted differently according to the points of view of participants and observers."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail that shapes Tessa's view and one that shapes Malik's view, then circle one detail that shapes Nia's or Mr. Chen's view.

The Footbridge at Mill Creek

1 At 7:30 on a rainy Tuesday, workers closed the footbridge over Mill Creek. The creek had risen close to the bridge deck, and floating branches struck its supports. Tessa, a city worker on the bridge, felt it shake when a large branch hit. She locked the gate because another hit could make crossing unsafe. On the east bank, Malik arrived on his bike, hoping to reach his job at the library before eight. He saw a narrow bridge and calm water near the path, so the closure seemed too early to him.

2 Across the creek, Nia watched from her second-floor apartment. From above, she could see the current pushing branches against the middle supports, which Malik could not see from the path. She thought the gate kept people out of danger. Downstream, Mr. Chen stood outside his grocery store near the closed bridge. He watched walkers turn away toward a longer route to a road bridge. Many of his customers usually came across the footbridge, so he worried that fewer would stop to shop that day.

3 By noon, the rain had stopped, but the gate stayed locked. An inspection crew found a damaged support where the branches had struck, and the city posted a notice about repairs. Malik, still on the east bank, had not seen the notice when he complained to a friend that morning. Nia's view had shown the rough current, but she could not feel the bridge shake as Tessa had. Mr. Chen had watched the detour, not the damage. Each person saw real parts of the morning, yet no one saw everything.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why did Tessa think the bridge needed to close while Malik thought the closure came too early?

2. How did Nia's location give her a different view of the danger than Malik had?

3. Why might Mr. Chen focus on a different effect of the closure than Tessa did?

4. What news at noon might change Malik's view of the closure, and why did he lack that information when he complained?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a town moves a bus stop from beside a school to a street two blocks away. In four sentences, explain how a student who rides the bus and a shop owner who watches the new stop might view the move differently, using where each person is and what each needs.

ANSWER KEY

The Closed Bridge

GRADES 6-9 · 6-9.WG.6.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one detail that shapes Tessa's view and one that shapes Malik's view, then circle one detail that shapes Nia's or Mr. Chen's view. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did Tessa think the bridge needed to close while Malik thought the closure came too early?	**Tessa felt the bridge shake when a branch hit it. Malik saw calm water near the path and needed to get to work.**
2	How did Nia's location give her a different view of the danger than Malik had?	**From her second-floor apartment, Nia could see branches being pushed against the middle supports. Malik could not see that from the path.**
3	Why might Mr. Chen focus on a different effect of the closure than Tessa did?	**Mr. Chen watched walkers turn away from his store and worried about losing customers. Tessa was on the shaking bridge and focused on crossing safely.**
4	What news at noon might change Malik's view of the closure, and why did he lack that information when he complained?	**An inspection crew found a damaged support. Malik complained in the morning, before he had seen the city's notice about repairs.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A student who rides the bus might dislike the move because the walk from school takes more time. The student notices the longer trip after classes each day. A shop owner beside the new stop might welcome it because riders now wait near the shop. The two people judge the move differently because they use different places and care about different effects.

Accept interpretations that use details from the passage to explain how a person's location, experience, or needs shape their view. For Part 3, the two views may differ from the sample if both are explained with plausible reasons.