When Plans Change

Trace how two storylines shape a turning point.

7.RC.3 "Analyze how a work of literature's structural elements such as subplots, parallel episodes, climax, and conflicts contribute to its meaning and plot."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each moment when Lina or Theo refuses or asks for help. Circle the action that turns Lina's problem toward a solution.

The Evening Fair

1 Rain tapped the windows of the school library as Lina stacked books for the evening fair. Ms. Vale had asked her to move the display away from a ceiling stain. Lina had promised she could manage it alone, even though the display filled six heavy boxes. Across the hall, her friend Theo practiced a drum solo for the fair. He kept losing the beat, but each time the music teacher offered help, Theo shook his head. Lina heard his sticks stumble while she dragged the first box.

2 An hour later, a drop fell from the stained ceiling onto a book cover. Lina slid the box aside and spotted two students carrying folding chairs nearby. She almost called to them, then remembered her promise. Across the hall, Theo stopped playing. "Can you count the beat for me?" he asked the teacher. With the teacher tapping beside him, Theo began again. His rhythm held steady. Lina looked at the five boxes still beneath the stain, then at the growing dark spot on the carpet.

3 A second drop landed, then a third. Water spread toward the bottom shelf, where more fair books waited. Lina ran to the students with the chairs. "Please help me move the books before they get wet," she said. Together they carried every box to a dry classroom while Ms. Vale set a bucket beneath the leak. At the fair, Theo played his solo without losing the beat. Lina arranged the rescued books nearby and realized that keeping a promise mattered less than knowing when to change her plan.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does Lina's promise create a conflict as the leak grows? Use one detail from the passage.

2. How is Theo's struggle with his drum solo a parallel episode to Lina's work with the books?

3. Why is Lina's request to the students a turning point in the plot? What happens because of it?

4. How does Theo's subplot help develop the meaning of Lina's final thought?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine Theo never asks the teacher to count the beat. In 4 to 5 sentences, describe a different way Lina's problem could end and explain how this change to Theo's subplot could affect the story's message. Use two details from the passage.

ANSWER KEY

When Plans Change

GRADE 7 · 7.RC.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each moment when Lina or Theo refuses or asks for help. Circle the action that turns Lina's problem toward a solution. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does Lina's promise create a conflict as the leak grows? Use one detail from the passage.	**Lina promised to move the display alone, so she hesitates to ask the nearby students for help even when water begins dripping onto a book.**
2	How is Theo's struggle with his drum solo a parallel episode to Lina's work with the books?	**Both try to manage a difficult task without help. Theo refuses the teacher's offer, and Lina tries to move six heavy boxes alone.**
3	Why is Lina's request to the students a turning point in the plot? What happens because of it?	**Lina stops trying to keep her promise to work alone and asks for help. The students then help her move every box to a dry classroom.**
4	How does Theo's subplot help develop the meaning of Lina's final thought?	**Theo's playing improves after he asks the teacher for help. His experience supports Lina's realization that changing a plan can be wiser than insisting on doing something alone.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

If Theo keeps refusing help, Lina might hear his sticks stumble again instead of hearing a steady rhythm. She could see the two students carrying chairs but wait longer to call them over. By the time she asks, the spreading water might soak some books on the bottom shelf. This ending would show how refusing help can turn a problem into a loss.

Accept other plausible changes if students connect Theo's altered subplot to Lina's choice and the story's meaning. The response should use two accurate passage details and contain 4 to 5 sentences.