The Unopened Door

Compare how stage and audio versions interpret one story.

RL.11-12.7 "Analyze diverse media interpretations of a story, drama or poem, evaluating how each version interprets the source text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Read the story and its two adaptations. Underline two details in the story that leave Inez's decision uncertain, then circle one choice in each adaptation that interprets that uncertainty.

The Ledger

1. The factory was set to close at dawn. Inez found a ledger of workers' names in the office, its pages soft from years of hands turning them. Her father's name appeared beside the date of a winter accident. Outside, the night cleaner leaned his bicycle against the side door. The manager called from the hall, "Leave it. Nobody needs those old lists." Inez held the ledger against her chest. "Not yet," she said. She walked toward the side door, then stopped with her hand on its latch. The cleaner's bicycle bell rang once in the dark.

2. In a stage production, the office is nearly bare except for a tall doorway. A white spotlight catches the ledger when Inez finds her father's name. The manager delivers his line loudly, toward the audience, as if he expects them to agree. Inez answers "Not yet" without looking at him. At the sound of a single bicycle bell, she pulls the side door open and raises the ledger toward figures gathered outside. The final image turns her pause into a decision made in public. The added crowd makes the book seem like evidence she intends to share.

3. An audio drama takes another path. Before the manager speaks, the pages rustle slowly, and Inez breathes in sharply when the narrator reads her father's name. The manager sounds tired rather than commanding. Inez's "Not yet" comes after a long silence, with her voice barely steady. Footsteps approach the side door and stop; one bicycle bell rings outside. The recording ends before any latch clicks or anyone speaks again. Without a crowd or an opened door, this version keeps her next action uncertain. Its close sounds make the ledger feel like a personal memory, not yet a public accusation.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the stage production interpret Inez's "Not yet"? Use one stage choice and one detail from the story in your answer.

2. How does the audio drama interpret Inez's reaction to finding her father's name? Identify two sound choices that support your answer.

3. The bicycle bell rings once in the story and in both adaptations. How does its role differ between the stage production and the audio drama?

4. Which adaptation better preserves the story's uncertain ending? Defend your judgment with a detail from the story and a choice made in each adaptation.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Plan a film version that portrays Inez's choice as trust in the cleaner, rather than public protest or private grief. In three sentences, describe two film choices, cite one detail from the story, and explain how your version interprets it.

ANSWER KEY

The Unopened Door

HIGH SCHOOL · RL.11-12.7

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Read the story and its two adaptations. Underline two details in the story that leave Inez's decision uncertain, then circle one choice in each adaptation that interprets that uncertainty. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the stage production interpret Inez's "Not yet"? Use one stage choice and one detail from the story in your answer.	**It interprets her words as a decision to challenge the manager publicly: she opens the door and raises the ledger to a crowd. In the story, she says "Not yet" but stops at the latch.**
2	How does the audio drama interpret Inez's reaction to finding her father's name? Identify two sound choices that support your answer.	**It emphasizes private grief. The pages rustle slowly, and Inez breathes in sharply when her father's name is read.**
3	The bicycle bell rings once in the story and in both adaptations. How does its role differ between the stage production and the audio drama?	**Onstage, the bell prompts Inez to open the door and show the ledger to a crowd. In the audio drama, it rings after her footsteps stop, and her next action remains unknown.**
4	Which adaptation better preserves the story's uncertain ending? Defend your judgment with a detail from the story and a choice made in each adaptation.	**The audio drama better preserves it: the story stops with Inez's hand on the latch, and the recording ends without a latch click. The stage production resolves the uncertainty by having her open the door.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The camera shows the cleaner's bicycle beside the side door, a detail from the story that suggests he is waiting nearby. Inez looks toward it, then places the ledger where he can reach it. These choices interpret her pause as a decision to trust him with the workers' names.

Accept other supported interpretations of the adaptations. For the film task, look for two specific film choices that make trust in the cleaner plausible without claiming the story states what Inez does next.