The Hallway Shadow

Use clues and what you know to rethink a first guess.

RL.3.10 "Routinely and flexibly develop and apply background knowledge along with a variety of comprehension strategies to understand and analyze grade-appropriate, complex literary text independently."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two clues that help you change your first guess about the shape on the wall. Number the clues 1 and 2 in the order they appear.

The Shape on the Wall

1 At bedtime, Leo froze in the hallway. A giant shape with pointed ears stretched across the wall. "A cat is in our house!" he whispered. His sister Mia knew their orange cat was asleep on the porch, but the shape still made her uneasy. She stepped closer and saw the shadow wiggle each time the wind shook the curtains. Maybe something outside was moving.

2 Then the wind stopped. The pointed ears kept bobbing. Mia noticed a small light on the floor near the wall. It came from Leo's flashlight, which had rolled under a chair. A cardboard crown from their school play hung from the curtain cord between the light and the wall. Mia remembered how her hand made a huge shadow when she held it close to a lamp.

3 She picked up the crown, and the strange shape vanished. When she set it down, the pointed ears returned. "Your cat has a fancy head," Leo said, laughing. Mia moved the crown farther from the flashlight, toward the wall. Its shadow grew smaller. Leo placed his hand beside it and made a tiny waving shadow. Soon the hallway looked more like a stage than a place to fear.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why does Mia first think something outside might be moving? Use a clue from the story.

2. What clues make Mia rethink her idea about something outside? Explain how they help.

3. How does Mia use something she already knows to test what makes the shadow?

4. Why does Leo seem less afraid at the end? Use something he says or does as a clue.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine Mia sees a new shadow in the hallway. In three sentences, tell what different object might make it, what clue helps her guess, and how she tests her guess using what she knows about light.

ANSWER KEY

The Hallway Shadow

GRADE 3 · RL.3.10

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two clues that help you change your first guess about the shape on the wall. Number the clues 1 and 2 in the order they appear. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why does Mia first think something outside might be moving? Use a clue from the story.	**The shadow wiggles when the wind shakes the curtains, so Mia thinks the wind might be moving something outside.**
2	What clues make Mia rethink her idea about something outside? Explain how they help.	**The ears keep bobbing after the wind stops. Mia also finds a flashlight and a crown between the light and the wall, so something inside could be making the shadow.**
3	How does Mia use something she already knows to test what makes the shadow?	**Mia remembers that her hand made a large shadow near a lamp. She picks up the crown, and the strange shape vanishes; when she sets it down, the ears return.**
4	Why does Leo seem less afraid at the end? Use something he says or does as a clue.	**Leo sees that the crown makes the shadow. He laughs and makes his own hand shadow, showing that he no longer fears it.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Mia sees a long, thin shadow with a round top and spots a spoon near the flashlight. She guesses the spoon is making the shape because its handle is long and its bowl is round. She lifts the spoon out of the light, and the shadow disappears.

Accept answers that connect a specific story clue to a reasonable inference. For the open task, look for three sentences with a new object, a matching clue, and a test involving light.