Behind the Blue Tape

Track how clues change your understanding of a story.

RL.6.10 "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 a clue that first suggests why Eli blocks the room, then circle a later clue that changes that idea. Beside Nia's notebook memory, jot what it helps you understand about the albums.

The History Room

1 When Nia reached the neighborhood library, blue tape stretched across the doorway to the history room. Eli, the custodian, stood inside with a cart of empty boxes. “Not today,” he said, holding out one hand. Nia stopped. The library board had been discussing cuts, and she had promised her grandfather she would borrow the book of old neighborhood photographs. A dark patch spread across the ceiling above the shelves. Nia noticed it, but Eli’s sharp voice and the tape held her attention.

2 Through the glass, Nia watched Eli slide a box beneath the shelf of photo albums. A drop fell from the ceiling and struck the box lid. He moved the cart closer, then took a thin album down with both hands. Nia remembered how a wet school notebook had once swollen so badly that its pages stuck together. She knocked on the glass and pointed to an empty table in the dry reading room. Eli nodded but kept his hand across the doorway.

3 At last Eli opened the door just wide enough to pass her the album. “Can you put this on the table?” he asked. “I have to clear the shelf before the next drop finds the books.” Nia carried it away and returned for another. As they worked, Eli explained that the tape kept visitors from stepping beneath the damaged ceiling. The board had not closed the room to save money. From the reading table, Nia saw her grandfather’s street in a photograph, its shops dry beneath a bright summer sky.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does Nia's memory of her wet notebook help you understand why Eli handles the albums carefully?

2. What might Nia first think the tape means? Use two clues from the first paragraph to explain.

3. Which two details in the second paragraph could make you reconsider that first idea? Explain what they suggest.

4. Why does the photograph at the end matter to Nia beyond being an old picture? Connect it to an earlier detail.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 4 to 5 sentence diary entry from Eli's point of view about this day. Include two accurate details from the story and show how his view of Nia changes as she offers to help.

ANSWER KEY

Behind the Blue Tape

GRADE 6 · RL.6.10

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline a clue that first suggests why Eli blocks the room, then circle a later clue that changes that idea. Beside Nia's notebook memory, jot what it helps you understand about the albums. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does Nia's memory of her wet notebook help you understand why Eli handles the albums carefully?	**Wet paper can swell and stick together. Eli handles the albums carefully to protect their pages from damage.**
2	What might Nia first think the tape means? Use two clues from the first paragraph to explain.	**She might think the history room is closing because of budget cuts. The library board has discussed cuts, and Eli blocks the taped doorway and says, "Not today."**
3	Which two details in the second paragraph could make you reconsider that first idea? Explain what they suggest.	**A drop strikes the box lid, and Eli takes down an album with both hands. These details suggest he is protecting the books from a leak.**
4	Why does the photograph at the end matter to Nia beyond being an old picture? Connect it to an earlier detail.	**It shows her grandfather's street. Earlier, Nia promised him she would borrow a book of old neighborhood photographs, so the picture has a personal connection.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I put blue tape across the doorway because the ceiling above the shelves was damaged. When a drop struck the box lid, I knew I had to move the albums quickly. At first, I thought Nia only wanted to get past the tape. Then she pointed to a table in the dry reading room, and I saw that she wanted to help. I kept her out of danger and passed her an album to carry.

Accept other reasonable first impressions and diary entries when they use accurate story details. Eli keeps visitors away from the damaged ceiling, and the leak threatens the albums.