The Paper Star

Compare a written scene with its described film version.

RL.7.7 "Compare and contrast reading a print text and viewing its visual/oral presentation, analyzing the effects of techniques unique to each medium."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two phrases that reveal Imani's thoughts or feelings in the written scene. Circle two film choices that shape what a viewer would see or hear.

Across the Puddle

1 At the empty bus stop, Imani held a paper star inside her coat pocket. Her little brother had made it from the last page of his spelling notebook before his move that afternoon. Across the street, a boy in a yellow raincoat waited under the library awning. Her brother waved when he saw her, then pointed to the puddle spreading between them. Imani stepped off the curb but stopped. The star's sharp corners pressed against her palm. She had promised to let him take it, yet she wanted one more day with it.

2 A bus hissed to a stop, hiding the boy behind its fogged windows. Imani could hear the driver calling for passengers, but she studied the tiny word HOME written on one point of the star. Her brother had written it for her, not for himself. She pictured his empty chair at dinner and pressed the fold flat. When the bus pulled away, he was still there, his hand raised. Imani crossed the puddle in two quick steps and placed the star in his open palm.

3 In a film of this scene, the camera first shows Imani's clenched fist, not the star inside it. Rain taps against the bus shelter roof, and a clock ticks loudly. The boy waves, but the camera stays on Imani as her hand sinks into her pocket. No one says what the star means. When the bus blocks the view, the ticking stops. As it pulls away, a close-up shows HOME on the star. Imani runs across the puddle, and the film cuts to black before she reaches the boy.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the written scene help you understand what the star means to Imani? What does the film's close-up show instead?

2. Compare the moment when the bus blocks Imani's view of her brother. How does the stopped ticking in the film change that moment?

3. The written scene says the bus "hissed." The film includes rain and loud ticking. How might these different ways of presenting sound affect the scene?

4. Compare the two endings. What does the written scene let you know that the film's cut to black leaves uncertain?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a new scene later that day, when Imani sees her brother's empty chair at dinner. In 4 to 6 sentences, describe one detail a print narrator could reveal and one camera or sound choice a film could use, then explain how those choices would affect a reader and viewer differently.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two phrases that reveal Imani's thoughts or feelings in the written scene. Circle two film choices that shape what a viewer would see or hear. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the written scene help you understand what the star means to Imani? What does the film's close-up show instead?	**The written scene reveals that her brother made the star, wrote HOME for her, and will leave an empty chair at dinner. The film's close-up shows HOME on the star but does not reveal those thoughts.**
2	Compare the moment when the bus blocks Imani's view of her brother. How does the stopped ticking in the film change that moment?	**The written scene says the bus hides him, then reveals that he is still there. In the film, the ticking stops while he is hidden, making the wait feel more tense.**
3	The written scene says the bus "hissed." The film includes rain and loud ticking. How might these different ways of presenting sound affect the scene?	**The written word helps readers imagine the bus stopping. Hearing rain and loud ticking in the film could make the wait feel more immediate and draw attention to time passing.**
4	Compare the two endings. What does the written scene let you know that the film's cut to black leaves uncertain?	**The written scene confirms that Imani places the star in her brother's hand. The film ends before she reaches him, so viewers do not see whether she gives it to him.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At dinner, Imani sees the empty chair and remembers how her brother always saved her the last piece of bread. A print narrator could share that memory directly, so readers know why the chair hurts to see. In a film, the camera could hold on his untouched glass while the other dishes clink loudly. Viewers might sense his absence without knowing the exact memory that makes Imani miss him.

Accept other comparisons grounded in the written scene and the described film. For Part 3, look for a distinct print technique, a camera or sound choice, and an explanation of their different effects.