Lines Left Behind

Read closely, then revise an inference as new clues appear.

RL.8.10 "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 detail that records what the river did, circle a detail that preserves what people remember, and number two places where the narrator's thinking changes.

The Ferry Shed

1 By the time the river dropped, a brown stripe circled the walls of the old ferry shed. It reached my shoulder. Dad called it a high-water mark and told me the next flood could climb higher. The city had already ordered the shed cleared before winter, but I wanted to save the map that Granddad had painted inside: a winding blue river, docks like crooked teeth, and a red X where our house stood. I arrived with a roll of paper, expecting him to help me trace it.

2 Instead, Granddad stood on a ladder, covering the map with white paint. "The new owners need clean walls," he said. I watched the river disappear beneath his brush. For years, he had used that map to tell me how the ferry once connected neighbors who now drove miles around the bend. I almost accused him of forgetting them. Then I saw a small square of unpainted wall beside the door. Beneath the brown stripe, pencil marks listed dates, each beside a different height. Granddad stepped down without touching them.

3 Outside, he handed me the roll of paper. "Draw the map from memory," he said. "Leave room for what the river does next." I glanced back at the dates. One stood above where the painted dock had been, though Granddad's stories always ended with boats returning safely. The map had shown where people hoped to go; the marks recorded where the water had actually reached. I began with the red X, then paused. If I drew only the old docks, someone might mistake a remembered crossing for a safe one.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Use Dad's explanation and the brown stripe to infer what a high-water mark shows. Why does it matter to the narrator's map?

2. How do the painted map and the dated pencil marks tell different stories about the river?

3. The narrator almost accuses Granddad of forgetting the neighbors. What later detail gives her reason to reconsider?

4. What does Granddad mean by "Leave room for what the river does next"? Use one detail from the passage to support your inference.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence note the narrator could place beside her new map. Name one feature she would add beyond the old docks, justify it with two different clues from the passage, and end with a question to ask before anyone uses the map to travel.

Lines Left Behind

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline a detail that records what the river did, circle a detail that preserves what people remember, and number two places where the narrator's thinking changes. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Use Dad's explanation and the brown stripe to infer what a high-water mark shows. Why does it matter to the narrator's map?	**It shows how high floodwater reached. It matters because a map of past crossings could mislead someone if it leaves out the river's danger.**
2	How do the painted map and the dated pencil marks tell different stories about the river?	**The map preserves the old docks and crossings, while the dated marks record how high the water reached during different floods.**
3	The narrator almost accuses Granddad of forgetting the neighbors. What later detail gives her reason to reconsider?	**He leaves the dated flood marks untouched and asks her to draw the map from memory, suggesting that he values both the neighbors' history and an honest record of the river.**
4	What does Granddad mean by "Leave room for what the river does next"? Use one detail from the passage to support your inference.	**He means the new map should allow for change and uncertainty. Dad warns that the next flood could climb higher than the brown stripe.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would add a shaded area showing where floodwater has reached, not just the old docks. The brown stripe on the shed shows that the river rose as high as my shoulder. The dated pencil marks show that its height changed from flood to flood. Before anyone follows this map, I would ask whether the old ferry crossing still exists and is safe.

Accept inferences supported by specific passage details, including answers that emphasize either changing flood levels or the uncertain safety of an old crossing. For Part 3, look for a new map feature, two distinct clues, and a relevant travel question.