For the Next Reader

Find the details that make an inference convincing

RL.8.1 "Cite multiple pieces of textual evidence that most strongly support an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that support something the story states directly. Circle two different details that support an inference you make, and mark each pair with matching numbers.

The Paper Squares

1 On Friday, the town library opened for the last time before its move across the river. Nia slid returns into a cart while her grandfather wrapped the old wooden sign in newspaper. She had called the new building "better" all week: it had taller windows and room for twice as many books. Still, when she reached the shelf beside the door, she stopped. Inside a copy of The Secret Garden, she found a paper square marked, "For the next reader: page 47 is worth the wait." Her own handwriting leaned across it.

2 Years earlier, Nia had tucked notes into books every Saturday, hoping strangers might write back. She had never seen a reply. She began to lift the paper from the page, but a woman waiting at the checkout desk held up a different book. "Are you the one who leaves these?" the woman asked. From her pocket she pulled a folded square. On it, beneath Nia's old message, someone had written, "I read this aloud to my son during the power outage." Nia put her square back between the pages.

3 By closing time, rain tapped the windows, and the moving crew waited outside. Nia carried the cart to the truck, then hurried back for the sign. Her grandfather had left one end of the newspaper open so the painted word LIBRARY showed through. "Won't it get wet?" she asked. He covered the word and said, "Not if we carry it together." At the new building, Nia placed a blank stack of paper squares beside the returns slot. She wrote, "For the next reader," on the top one and left the pencil there.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Nia calls the new building “better.” What suggests she also feels attached to the old library? Cite two details.

2. Before she meets the woman, why might Nia doubt that her notes matter? Give two pieces of evidence.

3. What suggests Nia changes her mind about leaving notes? Cite two details from the woman's visit and Nia's response.

4. What do Nia's grandfather's actions suggest he wants to preserve during the move? Support your inference with two details.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a visitor finding the paper squares at the new library. What might that visitor do, and why? Support your prediction with two details from different paragraphs.

ANSWER KEY

For the Next Reader

GRADE 8 · RL.8.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details that support something the story states directly. Circle two different details that support an inference you make, and mark each pair with matching numbers. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Nia calls the new building "better." What suggests she also feels attached to the old library? Cite two details.	**She stops at the old shelf when she finds a note in her handwriting, and she hurries back for the library's old sign.**
2	Before she meets the woman, why might Nia doubt that her notes matter? Give two pieces of evidence.	**Nia had hoped strangers would write back but had never seen a reply. She begins to remove one of her notes from a book.**
3	What suggests Nia changes her mind about leaving notes? Cite two details from the woman's visit and Nia's response.	**The woman recognizes Nia as the person who leaves notes and shows her a square with a reader's message. Nia then puts her own note back between the pages.**
4	What do Nia's grandfather's actions suggest he wants to preserve during the move? Support your inference with two details.	**He wants to bring a piece of the old library to the new one: he wraps its wooden sign for the move and asks Nia to carry it with him.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A visitor might write a note for another reader because the woman kept one of Nia's squares and showed her a message about sharing a book with her son. At the new library, Nia leaves blank squares and a pencil beside the returns slot, so a visitor has what they need to continue the exchange.

Accept reasonable inferences supported by two distinct, relevant passage details. For Part 3, the details must come from different paragraphs.