Beyond the Notice

Use strong evidence to support what the story states and suggests.

RL.9-10.1 "Cite multiple pieces of textual evidence that most strongly and thoroughly 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 showing why the branch must close, circle two showing why it matters to visitors, and number two details that best support an inference about a character's thinking.

The Cards

1. On the last Friday before the Mercer Branch closed for roof repairs, Tessa found a stack of blank index cards beside the returns slot. A typed notice on the door said that borrowed books could be returned downtown, three bus rides away. Inside, the ceiling above the history shelves wore a dark stain, and a bucket caught water with slow, hollow taps. Mr. Ortiz, the librarian, was taping boxes shut. “Don't make a fuss for my sake,” he said when Tessa asked about the town meeting. Tessa slid the cards into her coat pocket without answering.

2. At home, Tessa laid the cards across the kitchen table. She had asked three regular visitors what the branch gave them. On one card she copied Mrs. Bell's words: “I can walk here, even with my bad knee.” On another, she noted that Luis used the library's computers to apply for jobs. Her mother looked at the photograph Tessa had taken of the ceiling. “That roof won't fix itself,” she said. Tessa crossed out “Keep the branch open” at the top of her page and wrote, “Find a place nearby until the roof is safe.”

3. At the meeting, Tessa's hands shook so hard that the cards rattled against the microphone. She read the visitors' words, then asked whether the empty room at the fire station could hold a few shelves and computers while repairs were made. A council member said she could not promise the room but would ask the fire chief. From the back row, Mr. Ortiz raised his hand. “I can bring the books there,” he said. Walking home, Tessa passed the branch. Through its dark window she saw the bucket still beneath the stain, waiting for the next rain.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why is closing the branch for repairs a reasonable decision? Support your explanation with two distinct details from the story.

2. Why might sending borrowers downtown fail to meet some visitors' needs? Support your inference with at least two details from different paragraphs.

3. How does Tessa change her plan to address both the unsafe roof and visitors' needs? Cite one detail showing her earlier plan and one showing her revised plan.

4. What remains uncertain after the meeting? Use two details from the final paragraph to support your inference.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

What does Mr. Ortiz's behavior suggest about his attitude toward Tessa's efforts? Make a defensible claim using at least two details from different points in the story, and explain how each supports it.

ANSWER KEY

Beyond the Notice

HIGH SCHOOL · RL.9-10.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details showing why the branch must close, circle two showing why it matters to visitors, and number two details that best support an inference about a character's thinking. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why is closing the branch for repairs a reasonable decision? Support your explanation with two distinct details from the story.	**Water is entering the building: the ceiling has a dark stain, and a bucket catches drips. Tessa's mother also points out that the roof needs repair.**
2	Why might sending borrowers downtown fail to meet some visitors' needs? Support your inference with at least two details from different paragraphs.	**Downtown is three bus rides away, while Mrs. Bell says she can walk to the branch even with her bad knee. The local branch also gives Luis access to computers for job applications.**
3	How does Tessa change her plan to address both the unsafe roof and visitors' needs? Cite one detail showing her earlier plan and one showing her revised plan.	**Tessa crosses out "Keep the branch open" and writes that visitors need a nearby place until the roof is safe. At the meeting, she suggests putting shelves and computers in the fire station's empty room during repairs.**
4	What remains uncertain after the meeting? Use two details from the final paragraph to support your inference.	**It is uncertain whether visitors will have a nearby temporary library: the council member cannot promise the fire station room, and the bucket still sits beneath the stained ceiling.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Mr. Ortiz seems reluctant to be the reason anyone protests, but he is willing to help when Tessa proposes a practical solution. He tells her not to "make a fuss for my sake" while he is packing boxes, which suggests he does not want attention centered on himself. At the meeting, he offers to bring books to the fire station, showing that he supports a way to serve visitors during repairs.

Accept other defensible interpretations when students cite multiple relevant details and explain how the evidence supports their claim. Do not treat the fire station plan as approved; the council member only agrees to ask.