

Bench Views

Compare a narrator's view with character and reader views.

3R6 "Discuss how the reader's point of view or perspective may differ from that of the author, narrator or characters in a text. (RI&RL)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the narrator's thoughts about the bench. Circle words that show what Mr. Chen or Rosa thinks, so you can compare different points of view.

The Park Bench

- ① On Saturday, I helped my neighbor Mr. Chen clean the little park. Near the swings stood an old wooden bench. Its paint was peeling, and one arm was loose. I thought the bench looked sad and should be taken away. Mr. Chen carried a toolbox to it. "This bench has more life left," he said.
- ② I did not agree. I imagined children getting splinters or falling when they leaned on it. While I held a bag for trash, Mr. Chen tightened the loose arm. Then he sanded the rough wood. He told me that his wife had rested on this bench after their first walk in the park, forty years ago.
- ③ At noon, a girl named Rosa sat carefully on the repaired bench and opened her lunch. She said it was a good place to watch the birds. I still wished the park had a bright new bench, but I understood why Mr. Chen wanted to save this one. The bench did not look sad to him. It held a memory.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 At the start of the passage, what does the narrator think should happen to the bench?

2 How does Mr. Chen's view of the bench differ from the narrator's first view?

3 What is Rosa's point of view about the repaired bench? How is it different from the narrator's view?

4 The author seems to show that an old object can still be useful or meaningful. Could a reader still prefer a new bench? Use one detail from the passage to explain.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence mini-story about an old object. Tell one character's view in the first sentence, another character's different view in the second sentence, and your own reader view in the third sentence.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the narrator's thoughts about the bench. Circle words that show what Mr. Chen or Rosa thinks, so you can compare different points of view. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	At the start of the passage, what does the narrator think should happen to the bench?	The narrator thinks the bench should be taken away.
2	How does Mr. Chen's view of the bench differ from the narrator's first view?	Mr. Chen thinks the bench has more life left and should be saved. The narrator first thinks it looks sad and should be removed.
3	What is Rosa's point of view about the repaired bench? How is it different from the narrator's view?	Rosa thinks the bench is a good place to watch birds. The narrator still wishes the park had a bright new bench.
4	The author seems to show that an old object can still be useful or meaningful. Could a reader still prefer a new bench? Use one detail from the passage to explain.	Yes. A reader could prefer a new bench because the old bench had peeling paint and a loose arm, or because the narrator still wished for a bright new bench.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Jay wants to throw away the cracked classroom globe because it is old. Ms. Ortiz wants to keep it because students can still find countries on it. I would keep it until the class gets a new globe, because it can still be useful.

Accept reasonable statements of perspective that are supported by passage details. For the open response, check that it includes two different character views and a clear reader view.