The Missing Moon

Notice what the narrator knows about each character.

5.3.R.2 "Students will determine whether a grade-level literary text is narrated in first- or third-person point of view (limited and omniscient) and describe its effect."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one sentence that tells what Niko thinks or feels and one that tells what Mira thinks or feels. Circle each character's name in the sentences you chose to help you track whose thoughts the narrator knows.

The Spare Moon

1. The school play began in ten minutes when the paper moon slipped from its string. It landed at Niko's feet with a soft crunch. Niko stared at the torn edge and felt his stomach sink. He had painted every crater himself, and he was sure the whole scene was ruined. Across the stage, Mira saw the fall but did not see the tear.

2. Mira hurried behind the curtain, where a spare moon leaned against a wall. She smiled, certain she could fix the set before anyone noticed. Niko could not see her from the stage. He lifted the broken moon and searched for tape, wondering whether he should tell the director. Mira, meanwhile, worried that Niko might think she had left him alone.

3. When Mira returned, Niko was still holding the torn moon. He thought she had gone to get help, and his cheeks burned. Mira guessed he was angry with her, so she held the spare moon behind her back. For a long moment, neither spoke. Then Niko spotted a silver edge over her shoulder. "Is that another moon?" he asked, and Mira finally grinned.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Is the story narrated in first person or third person? What words in the passage help you tell?

2. Is this third-person narrator limited or omniscient? Give one thought or feeling the narrator reveals for each character.

3. What do you know about Mira that Niko does not know while he searches for tape? How does knowing this affect the way you read that moment?

4. When Mira hides the spare moon, what do you know about Niko that she does not? What effect does this have on the scene?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a new scene of four or five sentences about two characters who misunderstand each other. Use third-person omniscient narration to reveal a private thought from each character, then explain in your last sentence how knowing both thoughts affects the reader.

ANSWER KEY

The Missing Moon

GRADE 5 · 5.3.R.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one sentence that tells what Niko thinks or feels and one that tells what Mira thinks or feels. Circle each character's name in the sentences you chose to help you track whose thoughts the narrator knows. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Is the story narrated in first person or third person? What words in the passage help you tell?	**Third person. The narrator names Niko and Mira and calls them he and she.**
2	Is this third-person narrator limited or omniscient? Give one thought or feeling the narrator reveals for each character.	**Omniscient. The narrator reveals that Niko thinks the scene is ruined and that Mira is certain she can fix it.**
3	What do you know about Mira that Niko does not know while he searches for tape? How does knowing this affect the way you read that moment?	**Mira has found a spare moon. The reader knows Niko may not need tape and waits for him to discover the spare.**
4	When Mira hides the spare moon, what do you know about Niko that she does not? What effect does this have on the scene?	**Niko thinks Mira went to get help and feels embarrassed. Mira thinks he is angry, so knowing both thoughts makes their misunderstanding clear to the reader.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Rae hid the missing trophy under a table because she wanted to clean its dusty base. Across the room, Dev thought someone had stolen it. He planned to tell the coach, but Rae could not hear him. Rae worried that Dev would laugh at her cleaning plan. Knowing both thoughts makes the mix-up funny while the characters are still worried.

For the marking job, accept any two sentences that reveal Niko's and Mira's separate thoughts or feelings and have their names available to circle. For Your Turn, look for third-person narration, a private thought from each character, and an explanation of its effect on the reader.