Choose Your Read

Match a text to your time, interests, and purpose.

7.8.R "Students will read self-selected texts independently and for various lengths of time, choosing genres to suit and expand their personal preferences and purposes."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each genre Maya chooses, circle how many minutes she actually reads, and put a star beside the sentence that best explains why she chose that text.

Maya's Reading Bag

1. On Saturday afternoon, Maya had forty minutes before her cousin arrived. She pulled a graphic memoir from her library bag, though she usually reached for mysteries. It told the story of a girl learning to speak a new language at school. Maya wanted to understand what a new student might notice on the first day, so she read for all forty minutes. She paused at a quiet page where the girl could not find the right word, then reread it. The mix of pictures and words made that silence feel long.

2. On Wednesday, Maya had twenty-five minutes to read while her brother practiced drums. She had spotted tiny crabs under rocks during a beach trip, and she wanted to know how they survive when the tide goes out. Instead of another mystery, she chose a nonfiction book about tide pools. She read for twenty-five minutes, stopping to compare two explanations of how crabs stay damp. One page sent her back to a question she had written in her notebook: Where do they hide until the water returns?

3. On Monday, Maya had twelve minutes between homework and dinner. A mystery from a series she already liked sat beside an unfamiliar poetry collection. Even though she knew the detective from earlier books, she chose the mystery for a quick, absorbing break. She read for twelve minutes and stopped after a chapter ended. The final clue suggested that a missing bicycle had never left the apartment building. Maya tucked a scrap of paper into the book so she could test her guess the next time she read.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why did Maya choose the mystery for Monday's short reading session?

2. Why did Maya choose nonfiction on Wednesday instead of another mystery?

3. How did Saturday's choice stretch Maya's usual reading preference, and what did she hope to understand?

4. Which new genre held Maya's attention for her longest session? Compare its reading time with her mystery session.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a book or text yourself, then read it independently for at least eight minutes. Record its title, genre, actual reading time, one specific detail you read, and why this genre suited your purpose or stretched your usual choices.

ANSWER KEY

Choose Your Read

GRADE 7 · 7.8.R

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each genre Maya chooses, circle how many minutes she actually reads, and put a star beside the sentence that best explains why she chose that text. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did Maya choose the mystery for Monday's short reading session?	**She wanted a quick, absorbing break before dinner.**
2	Why did Maya choose nonfiction on Wednesday instead of another mystery?	**She wanted to learn how tide-pool crabs survive when the tide goes out.**
3	How did Saturday's choice stretch Maya's usual reading preference, and what did she hope to understand?	**She chose a graphic memoir instead of her usual mysteries to understand what a new student might notice on the first day.**
4	Which new genre held Maya's attention for her longest session? Compare its reading time with her mystery session.	**She read the graphic memoir for forty minutes, compared with twelve minutes for the mystery.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I chose a nonfiction article called "Roots Under Sidewalks" and read independently for 10 minutes. I learned that pavement close to a tree can limit the air and water reaching its roots. I usually choose fantasy, but I tried nonfiction because I wanted to understand why the trees near my school have bare soil around them.

Accept any self-selected text if the response names its genre, reports at least eight minutes of actual independent reading, gives a specific detail from the text, and explains the choice. The sample title is illustrative.