One Pier, Three Views

How experience shapes what writers notice

8.3.R.2 "Students will evaluate perspectives (e.g., historical, cultural, ethnic, and global) and describe how they affect various literary and informational texts."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail showing Ruiz's historical perspective, circle one detail showing Cho's professional perspective, and put a star beside one detail showing Amina's global perspective to see how each shapes the writer's focus.

What Should Happen to the Pier?

1 After a storm damaged Harbor Point's public pier, three neighbors wrote about its future. In a memoir, Mr. Ruiz recalled how his grandfather taught him to mend nets there. The pier, built decades ago, was where families sold fish and shared meals during summer festivals. Ruiz called the broken boards "a gap in the town's memory." He urged repairs, but his memoir did not estimate the cost or explain how another storm might affect the pier. His long family history makes the pier a symbol of belonging, not simply a damaged structure.

2 In a report for the town council, engineer Dana Cho described cracked supports, repair costs, and the risk from future storm waves. She recommended moving the new walkway farther inland and planting native marsh grasses along the shore. Marsh plants can slow some wave energy, but they cannot stop every flood. Cho listed the proposed materials and a budget, yet she did not mention the summer festivals. Her job requires her to weigh safety and public spending, so her report treats the pier mainly as a problem to solve.

3 In a letter to the local paper, Amina, who had moved from a coastal town in Bangladesh, responded to both writers. She remembered neighbors there gathering by the water, and she understood why Ruiz wanted the pier back. She also described how rising seas can threaten coastal communities in many countries. Amina favored a safer walkway with a space for festivals. Her experience did not prove which design would work best, but it pushed readers to consider both community traditions and a problem that reaches beyond Harbor Point.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does Ruiz's family history affect the way he describes the broken pier? Use a detail from his memoir.

2. Why does Cho's report focus on different details than Ruiz's memoir? Explain how her job shapes the report.

3. How does Amina's experience in Bangladesh broaden the view of the pier's future?

4. Which writer's text would best help the council decide on a safer design? Give one strength and one limit of that writer's perspective.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a student who uses the pier as a quiet place to read writes to the town council. Write four sentences as that student, showing what you value and explaining one important concern your view might overlook.

ANSWER KEY

One Pier, Three Views

GRADE 8 · 8.3.R.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one detail showing Ruiz's historical perspective, circle one detail showing Cho's professional perspective, and put a star beside one detail showing Amina's global perspective to see how each shapes the writer's focus. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does Ruiz's family history affect the way he describes the broken pier? Use a detail from his memoir.	**His family history makes the pier a symbol of belonging. He calls the broken boards "a gap in the town's memory" because his family and others gathered there.**
2	Why does Cho's report focus on different details than Ruiz's memoir? Explain how her job shapes the report.	**As an engineer advising the council, Cho weighs safety and spending. Her report focuses on cracked supports, storm risk, and costs rather than family memories.**
3	How does Amina's experience in Bangladesh broaden the view of the pier's future?	**She connects Harbor Point's decision to coastal communities in other countries that face rising seas, while also recognizing the value of gathering by the water.**
4	Which writer's text would best help the council decide on a safer design? Give one strength and one limit of that writer's perspective.	**Cho's report would help because it addresses damaged supports, storm risk, and costs. It does not address the summer festivals, which matter to some residents.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I read on the pier after school because my apartment is noisy. Please include a bench on the new walkway so students can sit and think. As a student, I notice the need for a quiet public space more than the need for a fishing dock. I have not considered how much the bench would cost to maintain.

Accept other text-supported choices for question 4 if the response explains both a strength and a limit. In Part 3, look for a distinct student perspective and a plausible concern that perspective overlooks.