

Light Through Fog

Trace how conflict, setting, and character change shape a story.

7.RL "The student will use textual evidence to demonstrate comprehension and build knowledge from a variety of grade-level complex literary texts read to include short stories, literary nonfiction, novels, poetry, and drama..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Bracket your chosen sentence spans and use short margin labels: IE = initiating event (starts the problem); RA = rising action (attempts and obstacles); C = climax (decisive turning point); R = resolution (resulting situation). A phase can span several sentences; defend your boundaries. Underline two details showing Mara's change.

The Darkened Lamp

- ① By late afternoon, fog had swallowed the harbor, muffling the bell buoys and turning the pier rails slick. Mara, fourteen, sat in her uncle's bait shop, repairing nets while he delivered medicine across town. She hated the old lighthouse on Gull Point. Three years earlier, its narrow stairs had trapped her during a storm, and since then she had avoided the cliff path. When the harbor master rushed in, he held a soaked telegram: a fishing boat was approaching, but the lighthouse lamp had gone dark.
- ② Mara wanted to tell him to send someone else, yet the boat's horn sounded once, then again, farther out than it should have been. She grabbed the shop's oil can and ran into the wet grayness. At the cliff, wind shoved at her coat, and each step recalled the night she had once waited, shaking, for rescue. Halfway up the lighthouse stairs, she heard the boat horn fade. Mara nearly turned back. Instead, she pressed one hand against the cold wall, climbed faster, and found the lamp's fuel line clogged with salt.
- ③ Using a wire from her net kit, Mara cleared the line and filled the lamp. The flame caught with a small blue flicker, then spread into a steady gold beam that sliced through the fog. Below, the boat answered with three sharp horn blasts and angled toward the safe channel. Mara stayed at the window until its deck lights passed the breakwater. The next morning, she walked the cliff path again to return the oil can. The stairs were still narrow, but she no longer saw them as a cage.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- 1** What implied theme does the story develop? Use two details from different parts of the story to support your answer.

- 2** What is the climax of the story, and how does it lead to the resolution?

- 3** How does the harbor setting shape both the conflict and Mara's actions? Use two specific details.

- 4** How does the author's word choice shift the tone from the beginning to the end of the story? Use quoted words or phrases.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a brief plot outline in prose about a character who acts in a challenging setting. Develop the events enough to show how the setting, conflict and character change connect; a plot outline is written, not a drawing.

Develop the plot

Establish a character and a setting that affects the problem. Show the initiating event, an attempt or obstacle, a decisive action and its consequences. Make the character's change visible through behavior. Use the space needed rather than one sentence per plot stage.

Explain a turning point

Identify the action you consider your climax. Explain how an earlier setting detail or obstacle leads to it and how its consequences reveal a change in the character.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Bracket your chosen sentence spans and use short margin labels: IE = initiating event (starts the problem); RA = rising action (attempts and obstacles); C = climax (decisive turning point); R = resolution (resulting situation). A phase can span several sentences; defend your boundaries. Underline two details showing Mara's change. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What implied theme does the story develop? Use two details from different parts of the story to support your answer.	A theme is that facing a past fear can give a person the strength to act. At first, Mara avoids the lighthouse because she was trapped there during a storm. Later, she climbs the stairs to repair the lamp and no longer sees them as a cage.
2	What is the climax of the story, and how does it lead to the resolution?	The climax occurs when Mara clears the clogged fuel line and the lamp begins to shine. This lets the fishing boat find the safe channel, and the resolution shows Mara returning to the lighthouse without the same fear.
3	How does the harbor setting shape both the conflict and Mara's actions? Use two specific details.	The fog and dark lighthouse create danger because the approaching boat cannot safely find the channel. The windy cliff and narrow stairs make Mara's trip difficult and force her to face the place she fears.
4	How does the author's word choice shift the tone from the beginning to the end of the story? Use quoted words or phrases.	The beginning has a tense tone through words such as "fog," "muffling," "slick," and "wet grayness." The ending becomes hopeful through the "steady gold beam," the boat's answer, and Mara's new view of the stairs.

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

During a heat wave, Eli watered plants at the community garden, but he avoided the tool shed because a wasp had stung him there. When the irrigation hose split, water rushed across the paths and threatened the young seedlings. Eli tried to block the leak with pots, but the water kept spreading. Hearing the pump strain, he entered the shed, found the shutoff valve, and turned it. The garden was saved, and he later repaired the hose with the gardener. Eli learned that fear can warn him, but it does not have to make his choices.

Turning-point explanation: Eli's decisive action is entering the shed and turning the shutoff valve. The heat wave explains why irrigation matters, and the spreading leak defeats his first attempt with pots. Shutting off the water stops the immediate problem; his later repair with the gardener shows that fear no longer controls his response.

TEACHER ASSESSMENT NOTES

Margin labels IE, RA, C and R use the definitions printed in the marking directions. Possible annotation: paragraph 1's final sentence initiates the problem; paragraph 2 develops obstacles and Mara's inner conflict; the first two sentences of paragraph 3 form a defensible external climax; the boat's safe passage and Mara's next-morning return show consequences and resolution. Accept other bracket boundaries if students explain their causal interpretation, including the decision to keep climbing as an internal turning point. Underlined change evidence may pair her earlier avoidance with her later view of the stairs. For the written outline, assess setting effects, causal plot development and demonstrated character change, not a sentence quota.