

Maya's Brave Choice

Notice how an author's choices shape your thoughts and feelings.

3.P.AC.1 "Reading like a Writer: Interpret texts through the author's lens by identifying, analyzing, and evaluating craft techniques that are connected to the responses, thoughts, decisions, and questions triggered by the text."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Read this fictional scene. Choose and circle two details that help you feel Maya's worry or relief. Tell a partner why you chose them. Underline the question. Put a star beside the repeated sound words Drip. Drip. Think about which choice most affects you as a reader.

The Peep Below

After school, Maya heard a tiny peep near the storm drain. Rain tapped the sidewalk, and a cold wind pushed wrappers along the curb. She knelt beside the dark opening and held her breath. Another peep floated up. Was a bird trapped below? Maya's stomach felt tight, but she did not walk away. Instead, she looked for help.

A park worker, Mr. Lee, was raking leaves nearby. Maya waved both arms. "Please come!" she called. Mr. Lee asked Maya to stand back and called a trained rescuer. The rescuer lifted the cover with a tool and placed the wet sparrow in a box. Maya and Mr. Lee followed the rescuer to the park office.

At the office, Maya watched the sparrow blink and shake its feathers. Drip. Drip. Water fell from its wings into the box. Soon, the bird gave a strong chirp. Maya smiled at Mr. Lee. The rain still tapped outside, but it no longer sounded scary. Maya knew she had made the right choice by asking for help.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How do the words "cold," "dark," and "tight" affect how you feel about the drain?

2 Why might the author ask, "Was a bird trapped below?"

3 Why might the author repeat the sound word in two short beats: "Drip. Drip."?

4 Which author's choice most helps you understand Maya's decision to ask for help?
Explain its effect on you as a reader.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences about a character who notices an animal that needs help. Include one sensory detail and one question to show the character's thoughts, then tell what the character decides to do. Read your scene to a partner and say which choice you hope will affect the reader.

Write your three-sentence scene

Keep the sensory detail, question and decision connected. Use the lines for your scene; explain your chosen effect orally to a partner.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Read this fictional scene. Choose and circle two details that help you feel Maya's worry or relief. Tell a partner why you chose them. Underline the question. Put a star beside the repeated sound words Drip. Drip. Think about which choice most affects you as a reader. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the words "cold," "dark," and "tight" affect how you feel about the drain?	They make the drain seem scary and help the reader feel Maya's worry.
2	Why might the author ask, "Was a bird trapped below?"	The question makes the reader wonder about the bird and builds worry.
3	Why might the author repeat the sound word in two short beats: "Drip. Drip."?	It helps the reader hear each drop, and the two short beats slow the moment.
4	Which author's choice most helps you understand Maya's decision to ask for help? Explain its effect on you as a reader.	Answers vary. For example, the question about a trapped bird makes me wonder whether it can escape, so I understand why Maya asks for help. Accept another craft choice with a clear reader response.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Lena heard scratching under the porch, and dry leaves rustled around her shoes. Was a kitten hiding in the dark space? She called her dad to help.

TEACHER ASSESSMENT NOTES

Drip. Drip. contains two repeated sound-word beats, not one sentence; assess repetition and pacing without mislabeling their number. Accept different reader responses and any two defensible circled details, such as tight for worry or smiled for relief, when the child explains the connection to a specific author choice. The model has exactly three sentences: sensory detail, question and decision. Students name a desired reader response orally after sharing their own scene. Maya seeks adult help and stands back while a trained rescuer works. This is fiction rather than animal-care instructions.