Beneath Harbor City

Trace how a modern story uses older narrative patterns.

11.T.T.1.d "Analyze how literary works draw on themes, event patterns, or character types from different time periods. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that create an older-style adventure pattern, such as a hidden goal, a test, a guide, or a deadline. Circle modern city details that change how that pattern works.

The Last Tide Record

1 At dusk, Mara carried a brass lantern through the flooded subway tunnel beneath Harbor City. Above, developers had fenced the old observatory, promising luxury apartments where its dome stood. Mara's grandfather had once mapped storms there, and his final notebook named a cache of tide records hidden below the station. The city planned to drain the tunnel at sunrise. Mara stepped over abandoned turnstiles, following chalk arrows left by someone who had entered before her. Each arrow pointed toward a door marked with a star.

2 Luis waited beside the star-marked door with a backpack of batteries and a bolt cutter. “I can get us in,” he said, “but the records should be sold. My aunt works for the developers, and she says history is expensive to keep.” Mara set her lantern on the floor. Water lapped at their shoes while a train schedule, long dead, clicked toward midnight. Behind the door, an elderly caretaker guarded a hand-crank lift and asked only one question: “What will you carry out when you cannot carry everything?” Luis looked at the bolt cutter. “My aunt has a key.”

3 The caretaker lowered them to a chamber lined with glass jars and rolled charts. A bronze clock above the shelves showed eleven minutes until midnight. Mara found the notebook's last page, which directed her to place the lantern beside the largest jar. Light revealed storm routes that could protect the waterfront from future floods. Then Luis cut the chain on a side gate, letting cold river water surge toward the charts. Mara grabbed the jar, but stopped when she saw Luis pinning a child's lost mitten beneath his boot. He lifted it, then reached for the charts as the clock struck twelve.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which details make the events feel like a race against a deadline? Explain how those details create that pattern.

2. What conflict between Mara and Luis develops in paragraph 2, and how does it raise the stakes in paragraph 3?

3. An older story pattern often places a figure at a threshold who tests a traveler before allowing access. How does the caretaker fit that character type? Use two details from the passage.

4. How does the passage combine a contemporary urban setting with features common in older adventure stories? Give two modern details and two older-story features.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence scene set today that adapts an event pattern or character type from an earlier period or tradition. Then write one sentence that names the source tradition and explains one modern change you made.

ANSWER KEY **Beneath Harbor City** **GRADE 11 · 11.T.T.1.d**

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details that create an older-style adventure pattern, such as a hidden goal, a test, a guide, or a deadline. Circle modern city details that change how that pattern works. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which details make the events feel like a race against a deadline? Explain how those details create that pattern.	**The dead train schedule clicks toward midnight, the bronze clock shows eleven minutes until midnight, and the clock eventually strikes twelve. These details limit the characters' time and make their choices urgent.**
2	What conflict between Mara and Luis develops in paragraph 2, and how does it raise the stakes in paragraph 3?	**Mara wants to recover and preserve the tide records, while Luis says they should be sold and is connected to the developers through his aunt. When he opens the side gate, the records are in immediate danger, so it becomes uncertain whether they will be saved. Accept a cautious interpretation of Luis's final reach for the charts: the passage does not state whether he intends to save or destroy them.**
3	An older story pattern often places a figure at a threshold who tests a traveler before allowing access. How does the caretaker fit that character type? Use two details from the passage.	**The caretaker controls the hand-crank lift that leads into the chamber, and he asks Mara and Luis a difficult question about what they would save. He tests them at the entrance before they reach the hidden records.**
4	How does the passage combine a contemporary urban setting with features common in older adventure stories? Give two modern details and two older-story features.	**Modern details include the flooded subway, the developers planning apartments, and Luis's bolt cutter. Older-story features include the lantern, hidden records, chalk-arrow trail, guarded entrance, and midnight deadline. Accept other supported adventure-pattern identifications when students cite specific passage details.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At 6:00 a.m., Nia stood outside the hospital server room with the donor database locked behind a firewall. A retired systems administrator, hired to test the staff, offered her a password but asked which patient records she would protect if the network failed. Nia gave the emergency backups to the night nurse instead of using the password for herself. The administrator opened the door and handed Nia the master keycard. This adapts the testing gatekeeper of medieval quest narratives, but replaces a castle entrance with digital security and makes the goal protecting patients.

For Part 3, check four sentences forming a present-day scene that adapts an earlier event pattern or character type, followed by one sentence naming the earlier period or tradition and explaining one meaningful modern change. Accept varied supported adaptations; the scene need not reproduce Mara, Luis, or the source's events.