Lanterns Against the Tide

Trace how character roles shape a festival's outcome.

7.RL.1.C "Explain how static and dynamic characters and the roles of protagonist and antagonist influence plot events."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline Mara's choices that show she changes, circle Vale's actions that block her goal, and put a star beside Tomas's actions that show he stays the same. Use your marks to trace how the plot moves forward.

The Harbor Lantern Festival

1 On the morning of the Harbor Lantern Festival, Mara carried her late father's blue lantern to the pier. She planned to light it during the town's evening procession. Councilor Vale, who believed old traditions wasted money, blocked the pier gate. He said the festival committee had canceled the procession because the tide might rise. Mara's uncle Tomas, the harbor keeper, quietly agreed to follow Vale's order. Tomas had always avoided arguments with town officials, even when he disliked their decisions.

2 At first, Mara wanted to obey. Then she noticed that Vale's warning board listed no tide report, only a guess. She hurried to the boathouse and found the official chart, which predicted calm water until midnight. Mara decided that waiting for permission would end the festival, so she asked fishers to help move the lanterns through the side gate. Tomas refused to join them. He repeated that rules mattered more than rumors, and his refusal left Mara with too few people to carry the heavy lantern racks.

3 When Vale saw the fishers at the side gate, he ordered the town bell rung to send everyone home. Mara climbed onto a crate and read the tide chart aloud. Neighbors gathered, and several offered to carry racks. Tomas still would not challenge Vale, but he unlocked the storage shed after Mara asked for safety ropes. With the extra hands and ropes, the group secured every lantern before sunset. Vale could not stop the procession, and the festival began on time. Mara thanked Tomas, but she understood that evidence could be stronger than silent obedience.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does Mara change from the beginning of the story to paragraph 2? Explain how her change affects what she does.

2. How does Vale act as the antagonist? Give two ways his actions create or increase a problem.

3. Tomas is a static character. What repeated trait does he show, and how does it affect Mara's plan in paragraph 2?

4. How do Mara's actions as the protagonist, Vale's opposition, and Tomas's limited help lead to the resolution?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence alternate ending in which Tomas changes his mind sooner. Show how his changed choice affects a plot event while Vale continues to act as the antagonist.

ANSWER KEY

Lanterns Against the Tide

GRADE 7 · 7.RL.1.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline Mara's choices that show she changes, circle Vale's actions that block her goal, and put a star beside Tomas's actions that show he stays the same. Use your marks to trace how the plot moves forward. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does Mara change from the beginning of the story to paragraph 2? Explain how her change affects what she does.	**Mara changes from wanting to obey Vale to questioning his claim and acting on evidence. She finds the tide chart and organizes fishers to move the lanterns.**
2	How does Vale act as the antagonist? Give two ways his actions create or increase a problem.	**Vale blocks the pier gate and claims the procession is canceled. Later, he orders the town bell rung to send people home.**
3	Tomas is a static character. What repeated trait does he show, and how does it affect Mara's plan in paragraph 2?	**Tomas avoids challenging officials and follows Vale's order. His refusal to help leaves Mara with too few people to carry the lantern racks.**
4	How do Mara's actions as the protagonist, Vale's opposition, and Tomas's limited help lead to the resolution?	**Mara publicly shares the tide evidence, which brings neighbors to help. Vale's attempt to stop the event fails, and Tomas provides safety ropes without openly opposing Vale, allowing the group to secure the lanterns and begin on time. Accept other supported descriptions of the original characters' roles and plot effects.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Before Mara reached the side gate, Tomas read the tide chart and admitted that Vale's warning was unsupported. He opened the shed, gathered the safety ropes, and led the fishers to the pier, so the lantern racks were ready before Vale rang the bell. Vale tried to cancel the procession, but the prepared crowd continued, showing that Tomas's change removed the delay.

For Your Turn, check a coherent three-sentence alternate ending in which Tomas changes his mind sooner, his changed choice affects a plot event, and Vale continues to oppose the goal as antagonist. Accept varied plausible endings; Tomas must change in this invented version even though he is mostly static in the source.