Three Books, Three Reasons

Choose a literary text that fits your purpose

11-12.RL.10.b "Self-select texts for personal enjoyment, interest, and academic tasks."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the detail that explains why Mara chooses each book. In the margin, label each choice enjoyment, interest, or academic task.

What Mara Carried Home

1 At the library's return cart, Mara found three novels and the list of next week's assignments folded in her pocket. The first, *Radio Auntie*, opened with an aunt broadcasting recipes to passing trucks after she accidentally repaired an old transmitter. Mara read a page and laughed when a driver requested instructions for boiling water. She wanted a book for the bus ride home, when schoolwork felt far away. She slipped *Radio Auntie* into her bag for that ride, though its wild jokes offered little help with the paper due Friday.

2 Beside it lay *The Last Shade Tree*, a verse novel in which two cousins try to save the only tree on their block during a punishing summer. Mara had spent Saturday measuring temperatures beside the pavement and under a park's trees for a neighborhood project. The book's short poems sounded like the voices she heard at the project meeting: impatient, worried, and determined. She checked it out because she wanted to follow those voices beyond her own block. It was not assigned reading, and no grade depended on finishing it.

3 The assignment list named a question rather than a title: How can a narrator lead readers to doubt an account? Mara picked up *Room Above the Bakery*. In the opening pages, its narrator insisted that she never entered the upstairs room, then described the blue paint peeling inside its door. A note on the cover promised that the story would return to that room from another character's perspective. Mara chose it for her paper, even though the opening made her uneasy. On the walk home, three books pressed against her side, each there for a different reason.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which book does Mara choose for enjoyment on the bus? What detail helps explain her choice?

2. Which book does Mara choose because of a personal interest? Connect its subject to something she has done.

3. Which book best fits Mara's paper? Give two details from the passage that make it a useful choice.

4. If Mara must return one book before writing her paper, which could she return without losing the book she chose for that task? Explain the different reason she chose it.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Name two literary texts you could obtain. Choose one for a specific enjoyment, interest, or academic goal, and explain how a feature of each text makes your choice a better fit.

ANSWER KEY # Three Books, Three Reasons

HIGH SCHOOL · 11-12.RL.10.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the detail that explains why Mara chooses each book. In the margin, label each choice enjoyment, interest, or academic task. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which book does Mara choose for enjoyment on the bus? What detail helps explain her choice?	**She chooses *Radio Auntie*. Its opening makes her laugh, and she wants a break from schoolwork.**
2	Which book does Mara choose because of a personal interest? Connect its subject to something she has done.	**She chooses *The Last Shade Tree*. Its story about saving a tree during a hot summer connects to her neighborhood temperature project.**
3	Which book best fits Mara's paper? Give two details from the passage that make it a useful choice.	**She chooses *Room Above the Bakery*. Its narrator claims never to have entered a room but describes its interior, and another character will offer a perspective on that room.**
4	If Mara must return one book before writing her paper, which could she return without losing the book she chose for that task? Explain the different reason she chose it.	**She could return *Radio Auntie*, which she chose for enjoyment, or *The Last Shade Tree*, which she chose because of her interest in the neighborhood project. She needs *Room Above the Bakery* for her paper.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I could borrow *Frankenstein* and *The Hunger Games* from my school library. For a paper on stories told through multiple narrators, I would choose *Frankenstein*. Walton's letters frame Victor's account, which includes the creature's account. *The Hunger Games* follows Katniss's first-person narration, so it offers less variety in who tells the story. I might read it for pleasure later, but *Frankenstein* better matches the paper I need to write.

For question 4, accept either book Mara did not choose for her paper if the response identifies its purpose. For Your Turn, accept any two obtainable literary texts when the student names a specific goal and compares relevant features of both.