Pictures Tell More

Read how described illustrations add to a story.

3.RL.7 "Explain how the text's illustrations contribute to the meaning, tone or mood of a text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle one detail from each described illustration. Underline story words that the detail helps you understand or feel.

Pickles in the Rain

1. Mara heard a thin yip while she locked the library door. A small dog crouched under a bench across the street. Rain ran down the empty sidewalk, and Mara could not see a collar. She called softly, but the dog did not move. The first illustration is described like this: The bench casts a long shadow, and the dog looks no bigger than Mara's mitten.

2. Mara set her bag on the dry steps and held out a biscuit from her lunch. The dog took one step, then stopped when thunder cracked. Mara waited without moving. At last, a wet nose touched her hand. The second illustration is described like this: Mara kneels low beside the bench, with her hand open and the biscuit resting on her palm.

3. A tag hung from the dog's collar, hidden beneath its wet fur. Mara read the phone number and called the dog's family. Soon, a boy ran up the sidewalk shouting, 'Pickles!' The dog bounded into his arms. Mara laughed as the boy and Pickles hurried home. The last illustration is described like this: Light shines from a doorway, and Pickles' tail is a blur beside the smiling boy.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the long shadow in the first described illustration help you feel when Mara sees the dog?

2. How does the dog's size in the first described illustration add to what the story tells you about it?

3. How do Mara's open hand and low position in the second described illustration help you understand why the dog comes closer?

4. How does the light in the last described illustration change the mood from the rainy opening?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine one more story page after the boy and Pickles get home. In three sentences, tell what happens, describe an illustration for that page, and explain how one detail in it helps readers feel the mood.

ANSWER KEY

Pictures Tell More

GRADE 3 · 3.RL.7

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle one detail from each described illustration. Underline story words that the detail helps you understand or feel. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the long shadow in the first described illustration help you feel when Mara sees the dog?	**The shadow makes the scene feel lonely or worrying, like the dog may need help.**
2	How does the dog's size in the first described illustration add to what the story tells you about it?	**Looking smaller than Mara's mitten makes the dog seem especially helpless under the bench.**
3	How do Mara's open hand and low position in the second described illustration help you understand why the dog comes closer?	**They show that Mara is being gentle and patient, so the dog feels safe enough to approach.**
4	How does the light in the last described illustration change the mood from the rainy opening?	**The light makes the ending feel warm and safe instead of lonely and worrying.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Pickles curls up on a soft rug while the boy fills his water bowl. In my illustration, a lamp lights the rug, and the boy sits close to Pickles. The warm light and their closeness make the page feel calm and safe.

Accept answers that connect a specific detail from a described illustration to a supported meaning or mood. For Your Turn, look for a new event, an illustration description, and an explanation of how one visual detail affects the mood.