The Silver Tail

Read a story and trace a change in a character's thinking.

6.RL.10.a "Demonstrate proficiency in reading and comprehending grade-appropriate texts."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that show how Lina's feelings about the tear change, then circle the discovery that helps her see it differently.

A Banner for the Block

1 By Saturday morning, Lina had painted a blue banner for the neighborhood night market. She had spent a week lettering each stall's name in careful white paint, and her father had promised to hang it above the square. As she carried it down the stairs, one corner caught on a nail. A long tear ran straight through the painted moon. Lina pressed the edges together, but a thin strip of daylight still showed. She rolled the banner tight before anyone else could see it.

2 At the square, Ravi helped her unroll it behind the food stalls. He saw the tear before she could cover it with her hand. “We can turn it around,” Lina said. “The other side is blank, but at least it isn't broken.” Ravi held the cloth toward the sun. Light spilled through the rip and drew a bright line across the ground. “It looks like a shooting star,” he said. Lina almost laughed. Then she remembered the silver scraps left from making signs for the market.

3 Together they stitched the silver scraps along the tear, leaving a narrow opening for light to pass through. When Lina's father raised the banner, the moon had a bright tail that shifted as the cloth moved in the breeze. A little girl pointed up and asked if the moon was racing. Lina started to explain the accident, but Ravi was already telling the girl how they had made a new shape. Lina let him finish. On the walk home, she folded the banner loosely, careful not to crush its silver tail.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why does Lina roll the banner tight before leaving home? Use a detail from the story in your answer.

2. How does Ravi's view of the tear help Lina think of a new plan?

3. What does Lina's choice to let Ravi finish speaking to the little girl suggest about how Lina feels now?

4. What might the story suggest about mistakes? Support your idea with two moments from the story.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine Ravi writes a note to a younger student who wants to throw away a torn decoration. In four or five sentences, include one detail from the story, explain a lesson Ravi learned, and invent a different way to use the student's torn decoration.

ANSWER KEY

The Silver Tail

GRADE 6 · 6.RL.10.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details that show how Lina's feelings about the tear change, then circle the discovery that helps her see it differently. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why does Lina roll the banner tight before leaving home? Use a detail from the story in your answer.	**She does not want anyone to see the tear. She tries to press it closed, but daylight still shows through it.**
2	How does Ravi's view of the tear help Lina think of a new plan?	**Ravi says the light through the tear looks like a shooting star. Lina remembers the silver scraps, which they use to make a tail.**
3	What does Lina's choice to let Ravi finish speaking to the little girl suggest about how Lina feels now?	**Lina is willing to let the girl see the new shape as something they made, rather than explain it as an accident.**
4	What might the story suggest about mistakes? Support your idea with two moments from the story.	**A mistake can lead to an idea worth keeping. Lina first hides the torn banner, but later she and Ravi turn the tear into a silver tail that she protects on the walk home.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

When I held Lina's banner in the sun, its tear made a bright line on the ground. That helped us see a new design instead of only a mistake. Before you throw away your torn paper sign, try layering colored paper behind the rip to make a bright stripe. You might find a way to make the sign worth keeping.

Accept other interpretations supported by specific story details. For the note, look for four or five sentences, a story detail, a lesson, and a new use for a torn decoration.