A City Together

Read a character's actions to understand how she changes.

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

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline Talia's words when she refuses Jun's help and when she later asks for it. Circle one detail in the final paragraph that shows how she sees their work by the end.

The Paper City

1 At the library's after-school workshop, Talia was building a paper city for the winter display. Each cardboard tower stood on a folded base, and the tallest one leaned toward the floor. "I can hold it while you fix the base," Jun said. "No, I can manage," Talia replied, pressing a ruler against the crease. The tower straightened for a breath, then tipped again. Through the window, rain blurred the real buildings across the street. Talia tucked the ruler beneath her arm so Jun would not reach for it.

2 Their display was due before closing, and the librarian had already switched on the lamps above the empty case. Talia tried folding a second base, but the cardboard split along the grain. Jun stayed beside the table, quietly sorting scraps by size. When Talia found one wide enough, it was too stiff to fold. She looked at the small cuts Jun had made in his own tower's base. "Could you show me how you did that?" she asked. Jun slid a scrap toward her and demonstrated with two careful snips.

3 Talia copied the cuts, and the new base held. She set her tower beside Jun's shorter one, leaving a narrow paper street between them. At closing time, the librarian came to admire the display. "Who built the city?" she asked. Talia opened her mouth, then noticed Jun's hands, still speckled with glue. "We did," she said. Outside, the rain had stopped. In the glass, the two towers stood side by side, their windows glowing under the case lamps. The street between them suddenly looked less like a gap than a place someone might walk.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does Talia feel about Jun's first offer? Use two details from the passage to explain.

2. What problem leads Talia to ask Jun for help, and what has she noticed about his tower?

3. Why does Talia say, "We did," when the librarian asks who built the city? Use a detail from the passage.

4. At the end, the paper street looks less like a gap and more like a place someone might walk. What does this suggest about Talia and Jun? Connect your idea to an earlier event.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence continuation in which Jun's tower begins to lean after the librarian leaves. Show how Talia responds, and include two details from the passage that make her response believable.

ANSWER KEY

A City Together

GRADE 7 · 7.RL.10.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline Talia's words when she refuses Jun's help and when she later asks for it. Circle one detail in the final paragraph that shows how she sees their work by the end. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does Talia feel about Jun's first offer? Use two details from the passage to explain.	**Talia does not want his help. She says, "No, I can manage," and tucks the ruler away so he cannot reach for it.**
2	What problem leads Talia to ask Jun for help, and what has she noticed about his tower?	**Her second base splits, and another scrap is too stiff to fold. She notices small cuts in Jun's tower base that might solve the problem.**
3	Why does Talia say, "We did," when the librarian asks who built the city? Use a detail from the passage.	**She recognizes Jun's part in the work. He showed her how to cut the base, and his glue-speckled hands remind her that he built a tower too.**
4	At the end, the paper street looks less like a gap and more like a place someone might walk. What does this suggest about Talia and Jun? Connect your idea to an earlier event.	**It suggests that Talia is more open to working with Jun. Earlier, she asked him to show her how to cut a base after refusing his first offer of help.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

After the librarian left, Jun's shorter tower began to lean. Talia picked up the ruler she had tucked beneath her arm and held his tower steady. "Let's try those two careful snips," she said, offering him a scrap of cardboard. Jun held the base while Talia made the cuts.

Accept other supported interpretations of the final image. In the continuation, look for a response consistent with Talia's change and two accurate details from the passage.