Marks on the Door

Read a story through the people who see it differently.

7.RL.10 "By the end of the year, independently read and comprehend literary texts representing a variety of genres, cultures, and perspectives that exhibit complexity appropriate for at least grade 7..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail that shows why Grandmother values the marks and one detail that shows why Ms. Ortiz wants a new door. Circle the sentence where Mara starts to see the choice differently.

The Blue Door

1 Mara pressed her palm against the library's blue door, feeling the shallow lines cut into its frame. Her grandmother had made the first mark after the river flooded the street forty years ago. Each line showed how high the water had climbed during a different storm. To Mara, the marks were a kind of story, one that could be read without opening a book. When she saw a notice saying the door would be replaced, she tore a corner from her notebook and wrote, PLEASE KEEP IT.

2 The next afternoon, Ms. Ortiz, the librarian, found Mara measuring the highest line with her finger. "Last month, rain slipped under this door and soaked our books," she said. She showed Mara a stack of pages curled at the edges, including a novel Mara had borrowed twice. Ms. Ortiz wanted a door that would shut tightly before the next storm. Mara had imagined the replacement as a careless choice. Looking at the damaged pages, she understood that Ms. Ortiz was trying to save stories too.

3 At home, Grandmother listened without interrupting. "That top mark was the year Mr. Chen carried our groceries through waist-deep water," she said. "I don't want us to forget who helped." Mara thought about the ruined novel and the marks on the frame. The following day, she asked Ms. Ortiz if a carpenter could save the marked piece of wood and hang it inside the library beside a short account of the floods. Ms. Ortiz said she would ask the town crew. Mara left the library still unsure, but no longer angry.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. At first, what do the marks mean to Mara? Use one detail from the story to support your answer.

2. Why does Ms. Ortiz want a new door? How does Mara's understanding of her choice change?

3. What does Grandmother's memory add to the meaning of the marks? Support your answer with a detail.

4. How does Mara's suggestion consider both Grandmother's and Ms. Ortiz's views? What is still uncertain?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose Grandmother or Ms. Ortiz as the narrator of a new story about the blue door. In 3 to 4 sentences, explain why you chose that person's view, describe a scene they might tell, and connect your idea to one detail in this passage.

ANSWER KEY

Marks on the Door

GRADE 7 · 7.RL.10

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one detail that shows why Grandmother values the marks and one detail that shows why Ms. Ortiz wants a new door. Circle the sentence where Mara starts to see the choice differently. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	At first, what do the marks mean to Mara? Use one detail from the story to support your answer.	**Mara sees the marks as a story of past floods. She thinks they can be read without opening a book.**
2	Why does Ms. Ortiz want a new door? How does Mara's understanding of her choice change?	**Rain came under the door and damaged books. Mara realizes Ms. Ortiz wants to protect the library's stories, not carelessly erase the marks.**
3	What does Grandmother's memory add to the meaning of the marks? Support your answer with a detail.	**The marks recall how neighbors helped one another during floods. Grandmother remembers Mr. Chen carrying groceries through waist-deep water.**
4	How does Mara's suggestion consider both Grandmother's and Ms. Ortiz's views? What is still uncertain?	**Saving and displaying the marked wood could preserve the memories while allowing a tighter door to protect the books. The town crew has not yet agreed to the plan.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would choose Grandmother's view because the marks remind her of neighbors, not just storms. I would read a scene in which she watches Mr. Chen carry groceries through waist-deep water and later adds a mark to the frame. That scene could show why saving even a piece of wood matters to her.

Accept supported interpretations of the characters' views. For the open task, look for a plausible scene connected to a specific passage detail.