More Than Junk

Trace two characters' views through words and actions.

7.RL.6 "Analyze how an author develops and contrasts the different points of view of characters or narrators in texts through dialogue, action, and description."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the narrator's words or actions that show a view of the backdrop. Circle Jun's words or actions that show a different view, then number the moment the narrator's view begins to change.

The Harbor Backdrop

(1) The stage crew had one hour to clear the storage room before rehearsal. I dragged a plywood harbor backdrop toward the dumpster, careful to avoid its splintered edge. Gray paint curled from the waves, and one corner sagged where rain had slipped through the roof. "This thing is taking up half the room," I told Jun. "The forest play needs space for its new trees." Jun caught the other end before it scraped the floor. She held it upright as if the peeling harbor might fall apart if she blinked.

(2) "My grandfather painted those waves when this school first opened," Jun said. She traced a narrow white line along the shore, stopping where the paint had flaked away. "He made the water look like it was moving." I glanced at the clock above the door. The new scenery was waiting in the hall, and the rehearsal would start soon. "We can't hang a broken board again," I said. Jun nodded at the damaged corner but kept her hand on the white line. "I know. I just don't want it to vanish."

(3) I looked at the line Jun was touching. Up close, it curved into a tiny boat I had never noticed. I set down my end of the backdrop instead of dragging it farther. "What if we save that piece?" I asked. "We could put it beside the new set, with a note about your grandfather." Jun stepped back to study the whole harbor. "And take a picture before we cut anything," she said. The clock still ticked, but now I saw more than junk in our way.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the narrator view the backdrop at first? Use one description or action from the first paragraph as evidence.

2. How do Jun's words and actions show what the backdrop means to her?

3. Both characters notice the backdrop's damage. How do their responses to it differ in the second paragraph?

4. What shows that the narrator's view changes in the last paragraph? Explain how Jun helped bring about that change.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five- or six-sentence scene about two characters who disagree over what to do with an object other than the backdrop. Show each view through dialogue and action or description, then show one character's view changing.

ANSWER KEY

More Than Junk

GRADE 7 · 7.RL.6

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the narrator's words or actions that show a view of the backdrop. Circle Jun's words or actions that show a different view, then number the moment the narrator's view begins to change. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the narrator view the backdrop at first? Use one description or action from the first paragraph as evidence.	**The narrator sees it as damaged and in the way, dragging it toward the dumpster while avoiding its splintered edge.**
2	How do Jun's words and actions show what the backdrop means to her?	**Jun says her grandfather painted it and traces a line he made. She values it as a connection to him and does not want it to vanish.**
3	Both characters notice the backdrop's damage. How do their responses to it differ in the second paragraph?	**The narrator says the broken board cannot be hung again. Jun acknowledges the damaged corner but keeps touching the painted line because she wants to preserve the work.**
4	What shows that the narrator's view changes in the last paragraph? Explain how Jun helped bring about that change.	**The narrator sets down the backdrop and suggests saving a piece. Jun's story and attention to the painting lead the narrator to notice its details and value.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Mara reached for the cracked clay bowl on the shelf. "We should throw it out before someone gets cut," she said. Eli cupped the bowl in both hands and said, "I made this with my little sister." Mara noticed the small fingerprints pressed into its side and lowered the trash bin. "We can't use it for food, but we could display it safely," she said.

Accept different interpretations supported by specific dialogue, actions, or descriptions. For the scene, look for two distinct views and a change made clear through what a character says or does.