Behind the Glass

Compare a story scene with its film version

7.RL.7 "Analyze the effects of techniques in diverse media and formats (e.g., lighting, sound, color, or camera focus and angles in a film), comparing and contrasting a written story, drama, or poem to its audio, filmed, staged..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details in the written story that the film presents differently. Circle the matching film choices, then give each story detail and film choice the same number.

The Greenhouse Door

1. In the written story, Mara waited outside the locked greenhouse while rain stitched silver lines across its glass. Her brother Eli had promised to water the seedlings, but he was nowhere in sight. Mara heard a sharp tap inside and pictured a broken pane. She gripped the spare key, then spotted a muddy bootprint by the door. 'Eli?' she called. A shadow moved behind the fogged glass. She turned the key and found Eli kneeling beside a fallen pot. He had been lifting a trapped moth from the wet soil.

2. In the film version, the scene opens with a wide shot of the greenhouse at night. Its windows look almost black, though the written story describes the rain as silver. As Mara approaches, the camera drops to her eye level and holds on the door. A low, uneven drumbeat begins when she hears the tap. The sound of rain fades, so the next tap seems unusually loud. Instead of telling us what Mara pictures, the film shows a quick close-up of a cracked pane, then cuts back to the unbroken glass.

3. When Mara sees the bootprint, the film briefly focuses on her key instead of the mark in the mud. The camera then moves behind the fogged glass, where a tall shadow fills the frame. After Mara opens the door, the drumbeat stops. A gentle piano note sounds as Eli lifts the moth onto a dry leaf. The film holds a close-up of the moth's shaking wings. In the story, the moth appears only in the final sentence, and the reader must imagine its size and movement.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How might the film's wide shot and almost black windows make the greenhouse feel different from the story's description of silver rain?

2. The story tells you Mara pictures a broken pane. How does the film show that thought, and what might a viewer believe for a moment?

3. Compare the tap in the story with the way the film uses sound around the tap. How does the film change its effect?

4. How do the film's close-up and piano note affect the moth's appearance differently from the story's final sentence?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a staged version of the moment Mara notices the bootprint. Describe two choices involving lighting or an actor's movement, and explain how each would affect the audience differently from the written story. Write four sentences.

ANSWER KEY

Behind the Glass

GRADE 7 · 7.RL.7

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details in the written story that the film presents differently. Circle the matching film choices, then give each story detail and film choice the same number. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How might the film's wide shot and almost black windows make the greenhouse feel different from the story's description of silver rain?	**The dark, distant view could make the greenhouse feel more threatening. The silver rain gives the written scene a brighter, more delicate image.**
2	The story tells you Mara pictures a broken pane. How does the film show that thought, and what might a viewer believe for a moment?	**A quick close-up shows a cracked pane before cutting back to unbroken glass. A viewer might briefly think the pane is really cracked.**
3	Compare the tap in the story with the way the film uses sound around the tap. How does the film change its effect?	**The story calls the tap sharp. The film adds an uneven drumbeat and fades the rain, making the next tap seem louder and more tense.**
4	How do the film's close-up and piano note affect the moth's appearance differently from the story's final sentence?	**The close-up shows the moth's shaking wings, and the piano gives the moment a gentle feeling. The story leaves the moth's appearance and movement to the reader's imagination.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Onstage, a narrow spotlight would reveal the muddy bootprint before Mara sees it. The audience would notice the clue first, while readers discover it with Mara. The actor playing Mara could pause with the key raised and stare at the print. That pause would stretch the moment of uncertainty beyond the story's quick mention of the bootprint.

Accept supported interpretations of mood and suspense, even if students use different words. For Your Turn, look for two distinct stage choices and a clear comparison with the written scene for each.