Under the Bridge

Use story details to support an interpretation.

8.RL.2.b "Identify key textual details to support the analysis."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that show how Nia's attitude toward Dev's help changes. Number two details that could support an idea about what Nia learns.

The Bridge in the Hall

1 Nia carried her cardboard bridge into the school library as if it were made of glass. For two weeks, she had measured every strip and glued each joint herself. At the showcase, she set it beside a card that read, "Built by Nia Patel." When her little brother, Dev, reached for a loose support, she pulled the model away. "Please don't touch it," she said. Dev had spent the previous evening cutting triangles from leftover cardboard, but Nia had left them in a shoebox at home.

2 During the first test, the teacher placed a stack of books on the bridge. Its flat sides bowed, and one corner slid across the table. Nia caught the books before they fell. Dev, watching from the doorway, pointed to the empty spaces beneath the deck. "My triangles could fit there," he said. Nia pictured the shoebox on their kitchen floor. She had dismissed his pieces because their edges were uneven, but the shapes could brace the sides. She asked the teacher for time to bring them in.

3 The next morning, Nia and Dev taped the triangles under the bridge. They trimmed each piece until it fit snugly between the deck and the table. At the second test, the bridge held the same stack of books without bending. Nia crossed out the word "by" on her card and wrote, "Built with Dev Patel." Dev stared at the new card before he smiled. When visitors asked about the bridge, Nia showed them the braces beneath it instead of covering them with her hands.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What do two details in the first paragraph suggest about how Nia views Dev's role in the bridge?

2. Which two details show that Nia begins to take Dev's idea seriously before the second test?

3. What details show that Dev's pieces helped the bridge hold the books, rather than just changing its look?

4. What does Dev's reaction to the new card suggest about him? Support your inference with a detail from earlier in the story.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

State a theme about working alone and working with others. In 3 to 4 sentences, explain how two details from different paragraphs support your theme.

ANSWER KEY

Under the Bridge

GRADE 8 · 8.RL.2.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details that show how Nia's attitude toward Dev's help changes. Number two details that could support an idea about what Nia learns. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What do two details in the first paragraph suggest about how Nia views Dev's role in the bridge?	**Nia sees the bridge as her work alone. Her card names only herself, and she leaves Dev's triangles at home.**
2	Which two details show that Nia begins to take Dev's idea seriously before the second test?	**Nia realizes the triangles could brace the sides, then asks the teacher for time to bring them in.**
3	What details show that Dev's pieces helped the bridge hold the books, rather than just changing its look?	**The bridge's sides bow during the first test. After Nia and Dev add the triangles beneath it, it holds the same stack of books without bending.**
4	What does Dev's reaction to the new card suggest about him? Support your inference with a detail from earlier in the story.	**Dev seems pleased that Nia recognizes his contribution. Earlier, he cut triangles for the bridge, but Nia left them at home.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The story suggests that accepting help can make both a project and a partnership stronger. At first, Nia leaves Dev's triangles at home because she sees the bridge as her own work. After they add his pieces, the bridge holds the books without bending. Nia changes the card to include Dev, showing that she now values his part in their work.

Accept other interpretations grounded in specific passage details. For the open task, look for a clear theme and two relevant details from different paragraphs, with an explanation of how each supports it.