What Stays Behind

Read a story through the details its characters notice.

9-10.RL.10.a "Demonstrate proficiency in reading and comprehending grade-appropriate texts."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that show how Ari's view of the Rialto changes, and circle one object that helps you understand why.

The Final Showing

1. At the Rialto's final showing, Ari arrived with a cardboard box for the ticket stubs. The theater had been sold, and by Monday its seats would be gone. Ari's mother, who managed the place, had asked for help packing, but Ari kept checking the time. Across the street, a new cinema offered reclining chairs and sound that shook the sidewalk. The Rialto's screen had a pale scratch down one side. When a customer asked for her usual seat, Ari nearly said it would not matter tomorrow. Instead, Ari pointed her toward row G and watched her settle in.

2. After the credits, the customer returned to the lobby carrying a folded program. She told Ari's mother that she had come here with her brother every Friday until he moved away. Ari expected a long goodbye, but the woman only asked whether she could take home the tiny paper sign that said NO REFUNDS. Ari's mother laughed, then carefully peeled it from the glass. Underneath, a strip of tape held a child's drawing of a spaceship. "You made that when the projector broke," she told Ari. Ari remembered the dark room, the restless crowd, and how everyone had cheered when the film finally started.

3. By the time they locked the doors, the cardboard box was full, but Ari had left one stub on the counter. It was from a film Ari could not remember seeing. On its back, in Ari's mother's handwriting, were the words "First shift, age twelve." Ari slipped the stub into a pocket and helped carry the box outside. The customer stood under the marquee, waiting for a ride, with the NO REFUNDS sign tucked beneath her arm. Across the street, the new cinema's lights blazed. Ari looked back at the dark Rialto and wondered who had kept the spaceship drawing all these years.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What two feelings about the Rialto does Ari's response to the customer in row G reveal? Use details from the first paragraph.

2. Why does the customer's request for the NO REFUNDS sign surprise Ari, and what does the request suggest?

3. How does finding the spaceship drawing change the meaning of Ari's memory of the broken projector?

4. What does Ari's final question suggest about how Ari now sees the Rialto? Support your answer with a detail from the ending.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Give the story a new title. In four sentences, explain how your title captures a tension in the story, using one detail from the first paragraph and one from the last.

ANSWER KEY

What Stays Behind

HIGH SCHOOL · 9-10.RL.10.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details that show how Ari's view of the Rialto changes, and circle one object that helps you understand why. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two feelings about the Rialto does Ari's response to the customer in row G reveal? Use details from the first paragraph.	**Ari is impatient with the aging theater and thinks the seat will soon cease to matter, yet still takes care to help the customer find her usual place.**
2	Why does the customer's request for the NO REFUNDS sign surprise Ari, and what does the request suggest?	**Ari expects a long goodbye, not a request for an ordinary sign. To the customer, even that sign is a reminder of visits with her brother.**
3	How does finding the spaceship drawing change the meaning of Ari's memory of the broken projector?	**Ari recalls that a frustrating delay ended with the crowd cheering. The saved drawing shows that someone valued Ari's part in that shared experience.**
4	What does Ari's final question suggest about how Ari now sees the Rialto? Support your answer with a detail from the ending.	**Ari now sees the Rialto as a place where people kept memories, not just an old building. Ari pockets the stub from a first shift and wonders who saved the drawing.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would call this story "What Stays Behind." At first, Ari notices the Rialto's scratched screen and the seats that will soon be removed. Later, Ari pockets a stub that records a first shift at the theater. The title contrasts the building's loss with the memories people can carry away.

Accept interpretations grounded in passage details, including more than one choice of object for the marking job. For the new title, look for a clear tension supported by details from both required paragraphs.