The Right Book

Choose literature to match a purpose

9-10.RL.10.b "Self-select texts for personal enjoyment, interest, and academic tasks."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each book title, then circle the details that show why the narrator considers it for enjoyment, personal interest, or a class task.

One Book for the Bus

1. On Friday, I ducked into the library while rain hammered the windows. I had finished my homework and wanted a book for the bus ride home. A paperback called *The Case of the Runaway Mascot* caught my eye. Its first page featured a detective who accused a school statue of stealing the principal's lunch. I laughed out loud, then checked the back cover. The mystery was short, and the jokes continued even in the description. I slipped it onto my stack. I did not need it for class or for a project. I just wanted to know what the statue did next.

2. At the next shelf, a novel called *Where the River Bends* held me longer. Its main character spent a summer trying to bring fish back to a creek blocked by an old gate. My family paddles a nearby river, and last month I watched fish flash beneath our canoe. I wondered what would happen to them if a gate cut off their route. The opening scene showed the character wading into cold water to inspect the barrier, despite her brother's warning. I added the novel to my stack, not because I had to, but because that question had followed me into the library.

3. Then I remembered Monday's literature discussion. We had to bring a novel with two narrators and explain how their accounts of one event differed. I found *The Missing Envelope*, which alternated between a brother and sister describing the day a letter vanished. In the pages I sampled, he blamed a gust through an open window, while she noticed that he had been standing beside the desk. That gave me a specific disagreement to examine. I could carry only one book home that afternoon, so I borrowed *The Missing Envelope* first and placed the other two on hold. The bus ride could wait; Monday's discussion could not.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which book does the narrator consider for enjoyment? Give one detail that makes it appealing for that purpose.

2. Which book connects to the narrator's personal interest? Explain the connection.

3. Why is *The Missing Envelope* a useful choice for the literature discussion?

4. The narrator can take home only one book. Why does borrowing *The Missing Envelope* first fit the narrator's plans better than borrowing either other book first?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose one literary text you would read for enjoyment or a personal interest and a different literary text for a specific school task. In four sentences, name both texts, explain what makes each a good fit, and tell which you would read first if you had a deadline you invent.

ANSWER KEY

The Right Book

HIGH SCHOOL · 9-10.RL.10.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each book title, then circle the details that show why the narrator considers it for enjoyment, personal interest, or a class task. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which book does the narrator consider for enjoyment? Give one detail that makes it appealing for that purpose.	***The Case of the Runaway Mascot*. Its opening makes the narrator laugh, and the narrator wants to find out what the statue does next.**
2	Which book connects to the narrator's personal interest? Explain the connection.	***Where the River Bends* connects to the narrator's experience paddling a river and wondering what happens to fish when a gate blocks their route.**
3	Why is *The Missing Envelope* a useful choice for the literature discussion?	**The assignment calls for two narrators whose accounts differ. The brother and sister disagree about how a letter vanished.**
4	The narrator can take home only one book. Why does borrowing *The Missing Envelope* first fit the narrator's plans better than borrowing either other book first?	**The discussion is on Monday, so the narrator needs time to read the book for class. The books chosen for enjoyment and personal interest can wait.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would read *A Christmas Carol* for enjoyment because I like ghost stories and want to see how Scrooge reacts to the spirits. For an assignment comparing narrators, I would choose *Frankenstein* because Walton's letters contain Victor's account and the creature's story. If the narrator comparison were due on Thursday, I would start *Frankenstein* tonight. I would save *A Christmas Carol* for the weekend, when I could read without a deadline.

Accept different literary texts when the student gives a plausible reason for each selection, names a specific school task, and uses an invented deadline to explain reading order.