Whose Library Hours?

Read a library-hours debate through three perspectives.

9-10.RL.10.c "Read widely to understand multiple perspectives and diverse viewpoints."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline a sentence that shows what Nia, Mr. Alvarez, and Mrs. Sato each wants. Circle one detail that helps explain each person's viewpoint.

The Hours on the Board

1 At six thirty, the library lights clicked off above the study tables. Nia held her pencil over a half-finished geometry proof. At home, her little brothers shared the kitchen table, and the television could be heard through the wall. She had asked the town council to keep the library open until eight. When she saw a notice announcing a meeting about the request, she pictured more students finishing homework beneath the steady lamps. She also knew she would not be the one locking the doors afterward.

2 Mr. Alvarez, the library custodian, stopped beside Nia's table with his cart. He had read her request and understood why she wanted another hour and a half. Still, the building's closing time was not the end of his shift. He checked the restrooms, emptied bins, and waited until the last visitor left before he could mop. A later closing would push his bus ride home past the time his daughter went to bed. "I want you to have a place to work," he said, "but I want to see her awake, too."

3 At the council meeting, Mrs. Sato raised her hand. Her bakery shift ended at six in the morning, and she relied on library computers to search for apartments. By afternoon, she was caring for her son. A later closing would not help her, but an earlier opening might. She rubbed flour from a sleeve while she listened to the evening-hours proposal. "I don't want to take Nia's hours," she said. "I want the council to notice that some of us need the doors open before nine." The council chair wrote "later" and "earlier" on the board, then left both words there.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do Nia and Mr. Alvarez view a later closing differently? Give a detail that explains each viewpoint.

2. What need do Nia and Mrs. Sato share, and why do they want different library hours?

3. What does Mrs. Sato's statement, "I don't want to take Nia's hours," show about how she views Nia's request?

4. Why does the council chair leave both "later" and "earlier" on the board? Explain what is still unsettled for the people in the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four- or five-sentence scene that adds a fourth person to the council meeting. Show what library schedule this person wants and why, then show the person responding to one character's concern.

Whose Library Hours?

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline a sentence that shows what Nia, Mr. Alvarez, and Mrs. Sato each wants. Circle one detail that helps explain each person's viewpoint. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do Nia and Mr. Alvarez view a later closing differently? Give a detail that explains each viewpoint.	**Nia wants more quiet time for homework because home is noisy. Mr. Alvarez worries that closing later would delay his work and bus ride, leaving him less time with his daughter.**
2	What need do Nia and Mrs. Sato share, and why do they want different library hours?	**Both need access to the library. Nia wants evening study time, while Mrs. Sato wants an earlier opening so she can use the computers after her bakery shift and before caring for her son.**
3	What does Mrs. Sato's statement, "I don't want to take Nia's hours," show about how she views Nia's request?	**Mrs. Sato recognizes Nia's need and does not want her own request for morning hours to dismiss it.**
4	Why does the council chair leave both "later" and "earlier" on the board? Explain what is still unsettled for the people in the passage.	**The chair leaves both requests visible because Nia needs later hours and Mrs. Sato needs earlier ones. The council has not decided how to meet those needs while considering the effect of later hours on Mr. Alvarez.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Devin, the bus driver who stopped outside the library, wanted it open until eight so riders could wait indoors on cold evenings. He listened as Mr. Alvarez explained how a later closing would delay his ride home. "Could the council pay another worker for the evening instead of lengthening your shift?" Devin asked. Nia looked up, surprised that someone else wanted later hours for a different reason.

Accept interpretations supported by details from the passage. For the open task, look for a distinct fourth perspective, a reason for the preferred schedule, and a response to an existing character's concern.