Setting Shapes Plans

Notice how place, time, and traditions move a story forward.

5.8.D "analyze the influence of the setting, including historical and cultural settings, on the plot."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words and phrases that show the time, place, or traditions in the story. Then number 1, 2, and 3 beside three moments when the setting changes what Emi does.

Cranes at Manzanar

1. In spring 1942, Emi and her family arrived at Manzanar, a camp in the dry California desert where many Japanese Americans were forced to live during World War II. Wind pushed dust through cracks in the barrack walls. Emi missed her Los Angeles neighborhood and the small garden behind their old house. Her mother unpacked a wrapped box containing colored paper for spring festival cranes.

2. At the communal mess hall, Emi learned that a notice had been posted: no one could leave camp to buy supplies. The festival was two days away, and her box held too little colored paper for the cranes she planned to hang. Emi wanted to cancel the gathering. Then Grandmother pointed to old food labels and letters. "We can fold these," she said, smoothing a square of paper.

3. That evening, Emi invited neighbors to fold cranes at the long mess-hall tables. Children brought labels, letters, and clean paper bags. The next day, strings of plain and colorful cranes crossed the barrack ceiling. During the gathering, Emi explained that the cranes connected her family to traditions they had practiced before the war. The dusty camp had limited her plans, but it also brought neighbors together to create the celebration.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the physical setting at Manzanar affect Emi's feelings and plans?

2. How does the historical setting of World War II influence the problem Emi faces?

3. What tradition influences Emi's choice to continue the gathering instead of canceling it?

4. Name one way the setting creates a problem and one way it helps solve the problem.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write 3 or 4 sentences about a character planning an event in a different historical or cultural setting. Include a setting detail that changes the character's actions and explain how the setting affects the event's outcome.

ANSWER KEY

Setting Shapes Plans

GRADE 5 · TEKS 5.8.D

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words and phrases that show the time, place, or traditions in the story. Then number 1, 2, and 3 beside three moments when the setting changes what Emi does. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the physical setting at Manzanar affect Emi's feelings and plans?	**The dry, dusty camp makes Emi miss her old home, and the camp's limited conditions make her worry that she cannot prepare the festival decorations.**
2	How does the historical setting of World War II influence the problem Emi faces?	**Because Emi's family is living in a camp during World War II, they cannot leave to buy more colored paper.**
3	What tradition influences Emi's choice to continue the gathering instead of canceling it?	**Her family's tradition of making and hanging cranes for the spring festival influences her to continue the gathering.**
4	Name one way the setting creates a problem and one way it helps solve the problem.	**The camp prevents Emi from buying supplies, but the mess hall gives neighbors a place to fold cranes together using available paper.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At a Lunar New Year gathering in a Chinese American community, Mei planned to give red envelopes to younger cousins after the lion dance. When rain forced the dance indoors, she moved the envelopes to the community hall and asked the dancers to enter through its side door. The cultural celebration gave Mei a meaningful reason to solve the problem, and the rainy setting changed her plan.

Accept answers that identify a setting detail and clearly explain its effect on Emi's choices, problems, or outcome. For the open task, accept varied historical or cultural settings when the student explains a logical cause-and-effect connection to the plot.