

Seeds Through Storm

Trace how setting, conflict, and plot shape a story's themes.

5.8 "Multiple genres: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts--literary elements. The student recognizes and analyzes literary elements within and across increasingly complex traditional, contemporary..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number the plot events 1 to 4 for rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution.
Circle one setting detail that creates a problem for the family.

The Seed Box

- ① In 1935, dust storms often swept across the Oklahoma Panhandle, covering fences and crops. Eleven-year-old Lila lived on a wheat farm with her grandfather. On the morning her family planned to leave for California, Grandfather handed her a tin box of saved seed. "Take this," he said. Lila wanted to stay, but the fields were too dry to grow anything.
- ② At the packed truck, Lila's brother Sam said the box would only add weight. Lila argued that the seeds held Grandfather's hope for planting again. Before either could move, a black dust cloud rolled over the road. The wind tore a blanket from the truck, and the tin box slid toward the open gate. Lila ran after it while Sam shouted for her to come back.
- ③ Sam caught Lila's sleeve just as she grabbed the box against the gate. Together, they dragged it into the barn and waited until the storm passed. Grandfather placed the box between them in the truck. "We can carry more than furniture," Sam told Lila. As the family drove west, Lila understood that leaving the farm did not mean leaving its story behind.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Infer two themes in the story. For each theme, give one detail from the passage that supports it.

2 How does the relationship between Lila and Sam change from the beginning to the end of the story? Use two events as evidence.

3 What are the rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution of this story?

4 How does the 1935 Dust Bowl setting influence the plot? Explain two ways.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a 5 to 7 sentence scene set in a place and time that creates a problem. Show two characters disagree, reach a climax, and resolve the problem, while suggesting two themes through their actions.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Number the plot events 1 to 4 for rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution. Circle one setting detail that creates a problem for the family. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Infer two themes in the story. For each theme, give one detail from the passage that supports it.	Hope can continue during change, supported by Lila carrying Grandfather's saved seeds as the family leaves. Family members can overcome conflict by working together, supported by Sam and Lila rescuing the box together.
2	How does the relationship between Lila and Sam change from the beginning to the end of the story? Use two events as evidence.	At first, Sam and Lila disagree because he thinks the seed box is extra weight. By the end, Sam saves Lila from the storm and helps her bring the box into the barn, showing cooperation and understanding.
3	What are the rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution of this story?	Rising action: A dust cloud rolls over the road and the seed box slides toward the gate. Climax: Sam catches Lila's sleeve as she grabs the box. Falling action: They pull the box into the barn and wait for the storm to pass. Resolution: The family drives west with the seed box.
4	How does the 1935 Dust Bowl setting influence the plot? Explain two ways.	The dry fields force Lila's family to leave Oklahoma for California. The dust storm creates the danger that sends the seed box sliding toward the gate.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the annual moon-viewing picnic in a city park, Nia wanted to hang the family lantern near the pond, but her cousin Tomas worried that wind would blow it out. When a gust snapped the lantern's handle, both children grabbed it before it landed in the water. They used Tomas's scarf to tie the handle to a low branch. Nia thanked him for speaking up, and he helped her light the lantern again. As families shared mooncakes nearby, they watched its glow and laughed.

Accept reasonable theme statements that are supported by passage details, including ideas about hope, change, family, memory, or cooperation. For plot answers, accept equivalent descriptions as long as the events are in the correct order and use evidence from the story.