

Storm to River

Track how thoughts, feelings, and actions move a story forward.

6.7.B “analyze how the characters’ internal and external responses develop the plot;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each character’s internal response, such as a feeling, thought, or fear. Circle each external response, such as an action or spoken idea, and number the responses that move the plot from problem to solution.

The Changed Mural

- ① On Saturday, Imani carried paint jars to the community garden, where her class planned to finish a mural before the neighborhood festival. At the gate, she saw that a storm had knocked the unfinished wooden panels into a muddy puddle. Her stomach tightened. If the colors ran together, everyone would blame her because she had promised to lock the supply shed. Imani wanted to hide behind the tool shed, but she set down the jars and pulled the panels onto the gravel.
- ② Imani scrubbed one corner with a damp rag, but brown water spread across the blue sky she had painted. “It is ruined,” she whispered. Her friend Mateo arrived with a box of paper towels. He frowned at the panels, then said, “We can make the muddy part a river.” Imani doubted him. Still, Mateo began sketching wavy lines with a pencil, and Imani pictured silver fish flashing through the new river. Her worry loosened. She opened a jar of dark blue paint and asked Mateo to mix lighter shades.
- ③ By noon, the river curved across the panels, carrying fish, reeds, and small painted boats. When Ms. Chen arrived, she paused at the gate. Imani feared that her teacher would notice the missing sky, yet she explained how the storm had changed their plan. Ms. Chen studied the mural and smiled. “The river leads people through the whole garden,” she said. Imani grinned and invited younger students to add boats. Their ideas filled the empty spaces, and the class finished before the festival began.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What does Imani's "stomach tightened" response reveal? How does her next action move the plot forward?

2 How does Mateo respond to the muddy panels, and how does his response create a new direction for the mural?

3 How does Imani's internal response change after she pictures fish in the river? What action shows this change?

4 Explain how Imani's response to Ms. Chen helps resolve the plot.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a four-sentence mini-scene about a character facing an unexpected problem during a group project. Show the character's internal response and external action, then explain how the action changes what happens next.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each character's internal response, such as a feeling, thought, or fear. Circle each external response, such as an action or spoken idea, and number the responses that move the plot from problem to solution. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does Imani's "stomach tightened" response reveal? How does her next action move the plot forward?	It reveals that Imani is worried about being blamed for the damaged mural. Instead of hiding, she pulls the panels from the puddle so the class can try to save them.
2	How does Mateo respond to the muddy panels, and how does his response create a new direction for the mural?	Mateo suggests turning the muddy area into a river and sketches wavy lines. His idea changes the problem from ruined paint into a new mural design.
3	How does Imani's internal response change after she pictures fish in the river? What action shows this change?	Her worry loosens, and she begins to see the new design as possible. She opens dark blue paint and asks Mateo to mix lighter shades.
4	Explain how Imani's response to Ms. Chen helps resolve the plot.	Although Imani fears Ms. Chen will notice the missing sky, she explains the changed plan. After Ms. Chen approves the river, Imani invites younger students to add boats, helping the class finish the mural.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

During the school play, Lena saw that the curtain cord had snapped. She felt panic because the audience was waiting, but she remembered the stage crew's practice. Lena signaled to Omar, and together they lifted the curtain by hand. Their quick response started the play on time and turned the problem into a team solution.

Accept answers that identify a character's thought or feeling and connect it to an action and a plot change. For the open task, look for all four sentences, an unexpected problem, an internal response, an external response, and a clear effect on the events.