Plot Turning Points

Trace the turning points in a story with a flashback.

6.7.C "analyze plot elements, including rising action, climax, falling action, resolution, and non- linear elements such as flashback; and"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the flashback. In the margin, label the rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution with RA, C, FA, and R to track how Mara's problem changes.

The Signal Lantern

1 On the evening before the harbor festival, Mara carried her grandfather's brass lantern to the pier. She planned to hang it beside the music tent, just as he had done for years. A hard wind slapped the water against the posts. When Mara reached the pier, she saw that the lantern's blue glass pane was missing. Without it, the candle flame would blow out, and the boats returning after sunset could not see the festival signal.

2 Mara searched beneath benches and along the rocky shore, while clouds covered the last light. Then she remembered a windy night two summers earlier. Her grandfather had shown her how to place a clear jar around a candle when the lantern glass cracked. Mara raced to the bait shop, borrowed an empty pickle jar, and scrubbed off its label at a faucet. Back at the pier, she tied the jar to the lantern with twine. The first boat horn sounded beyond the fog.

3 Just as Mara lit the candle, a gust snapped the twine, and the jar swung over the black water. Mara grabbed the lantern handle with one hand and caught the jar with the other. She retied the knot tightly, then lifted the lantern high. Its steady light shone through the glass as three fishing boats turned toward the pier. The wind eased, and the musicians began playing. Mara hung the lantern beside the tent, where it glowed until the last visitors left.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Name two events from the rising action that make Mara's problem more urgent.

2. What is the flashback, and how does it help Mara in the present story?

3. What is the climax of the story? Explain why it is the climax.

4. What happens during the falling action, and what is the resolution?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five-sentence mini-story about a character solving a problem. Label sentence 2 as rising action and include a flashback in it, label sentence 3 as climax, sentence 4 as falling action, and sentence 5 as resolution.

ANSWER KEY

Plot Turning Points

GRADE 6 · TEKS 6.7.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the flashback. In the margin, label the rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution with RA, C, FA, and R to track how Mara's problem changes. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name two events from the rising action that make Mara's problem more urgent.	**Mara discovers that the blue glass pane is missing, and she searches for a way to protect the candle as the first boat horn sounds.**
2	What is the flashback, and how does it help Mara in the present story?	**The flashback is Mara remembering her grandfather showing her how to put a clear jar around a candle. It gives her the idea to use a pickle jar as replacement glass.**
3	What is the climax of the story? Explain why it is the climax.	**The climax is when the gust snaps the twine and Mara catches the swinging jar over the water. This is the most tense moment because the lantern could be lost and the signal could fail.**
4	What happens during the falling action, and what is the resolution?	**In the falling action, Mara reties the jar and raises the lantern so the boats can see it. The resolution is that she hangs the lantern by the tent, where it glows until the visitors leave.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

[Setup] Niko prepared to play his drum in the school parade. [Rising Action, Flashback] When rain began, he remembered his aunt showing him how to cover a drum with a plastic bag, so he hurried to find one. [Climax] As the parade started, the bag tore, and Niko caught the drum before it hit the wet street. [Falling Action] He taped the bag closed and returned to the line. [Resolution] Niko played the final song as the parade reached the park.

Accept reasonable plot labels when students support them with passage events. The climax should identify Mara catching the jar after the twine snaps, and the flashback should identify her memory of her grandfather's lesson.