

Viewpoint at the Dock

Analyze point of view and figurative details for author purpose.

6.9.E “identify the use of literary devices, including omniscient and limited point of view, to achieve a specific purpose;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each sentence that reveals what a character thinks or knows. Beside each underlined sentence, write O if its paragraph uses omniscient, or all-knowing, point of view, or L if it uses limited point of view, then circle one comparison or human action given to a nonhuman thing that helps create a mood.

The Missing Dog

- ① By sunset, the river had swallowed the lower trail, turning the park into a maze of shining puddles. Nora stood beneath the picnic shelter, gripping a map that had blurred in the rain. Across the field, her brother Eli searched the darkening path for their missing dog, Scout. Eli told himself he was calm, but each splash made his stomach tighten. Nora believed Scout had followed the smell of sandwiches toward the boat dock. Neither child knew that Scout was curled behind a stack of canoes, asleep and dry.
- ② Nora left the shelter and followed the slick path toward the dock. The river hissed beside her, and wet leaves slapped against her boots. She did not notice Eli calling from the field because she was listening for Scout's tags. What if the dog had slipped into the water? The thought chased her faster than the wind. At the dock, the lights winked like small yellow eyes. Nora saw a canoe rope twitch and froze, certain that something was moving beneath the tarp.
- ③ Eli reached the dock just as Nora lifted the tarp. Scout burst out, wagging his tail and scattering droplets across the boards. Nora felt anger melt into relief, while Eli laughed because he had feared she would blame him for losing the dog. Scout only wanted to escape the rain, though the children could not know that. The river still rushed beyond the dock, but its sound no longer seemed threatening. Together, the children led Scout home, their muddy footprints crossing the trail like a crooked map.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which two paragraphs use omniscient point of view? Give one detail from each paragraph that shows the narrator knows more than one character does.

2 Paragraph 2 has limited point of view centered on Nora. What information about Eli does the narrator leave out, and how does this choice build suspense?

3 Quote one example of personification or a simile from paragraph 2. What mood or feeling does it help create?

4 Why might the author reveal Scout's safe location in paragraph 1 before switching to Nora's limited point of view in paragraph 2?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a four-sentence scene in a new setting. Make the first two sentences use limited point of view for one character, make the next two sentences use omniscient point of view, and include a simile or personification. Add one sentence explaining how the point-of-view change affects the reader.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each sentence that reveals what a character thinks or knows. Beside each underlined sentence, write O if its paragraph uses omniscient, or all-knowing, point of view, or L if it uses limited point of view, then circle one comparison or human action given to a nonhuman thing that helps create a mood. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which two paragraphs use omniscient point of view? Give one detail from each paragraph that shows the narrator knows more than one character does.	Paragraphs 1 and 3. Paragraph 1 reveals Scout's location even though the children do not know it. Paragraph 3 reveals Nora's relief and Eli's fear that she would blame him.
2	Paragraph 2 has limited point of view centered on Nora. What information about Eli does the narrator leave out, and how does this choice build suspense?	The narrator does not reveal Eli's thoughts or what he is doing beyond calling from the field. Focusing on Nora's fear makes her trip to the dock feel tense.
3	Quote one example of personification or a simile from paragraph 2. What mood or feeling does it help create?	"The river hissed beside her" is personification. It makes the river seem threatening and helps create suspense.
4	Why might the author reveal Scout's safe location in paragraph 1 before switching to Nora's limited point of view in paragraph 2?	Readers know Scout is safe, but Nora does not. This creates suspense because readers follow Nora's fear as she searches near the dock.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Mia waited outside the audition room, pressing her music folder against her chest. The hallway clock tapped like a nervous insect, and she wondered whether she would forget the first note. Inside, Mr. Chen hoped the next singer would bring energy, while Mia's friend Joel quietly believed Mia was ready. Neither of them knew that a loose window had made the clock sound louder than usual. The limited view builds Mia's worry, and the omniscient view lets readers understand other thoughts and the harmless cause of the sound.

Accept accurate identifications of paragraphs 1 and 3 as omniscient and paragraph 2 as limited, supported by relevant text evidence. For the open response, accept varied scenes if the first two sentences stay with one character's knowledge, the next two reveal knowledge beyond that character, and the explanation accurately states an effect.