

Mast Under Pressure

Trace how character qualities shape a conflict and its outcome.

7.7.B “analyze how characters’ qualities influence events and resolution of the conflict;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline actions or statements that reveal Lena’s or Theo’s qualities. Number 1, 2, and 3 beside key events that those qualities influence, including the resolution.

The Harbor Day Skiff

- ① On the morning of the Harbor Day boat race, Lena found the community skiff tipped against the dock. Its mast had cracked during the night, and without it, the youth team could not enter. Coach Imani sent runners for help, but the repair shop was across town. Lena, the team captain, examined the splintered wood instead of blaming anyone. She remembered that her grandfather had stored spare bamboo poles behind the bait shed. Although the race began in two hours, Lena asked quiet, careful Theo to search with her.
- ② Theo worried that the old poles would be too weak, yet he followed Lena through the muddy shed. He noticed a coil of sailcloth hanging above the nets and suggested using it to bind the pole to the mast base. Lena listened, then tested each pole by pressing it against the dock rail. One snapped. Rather than rush ahead, she chose the strongest pole and had Theo hold it steady while she tied the sailcloth in tight, even wraps. Their patience made a temporary mast.
- ③ At the starting line, an official questioned the unusual mast and said the skiff might not be safe. Lena did not argue. She explained exactly how they had tested the pole and invited the official to inspect the bindings. Theo, usually shy, added that the sailcloth came from the team’s own supply box. After checking the mast, the official allowed the team to race. The skiff did not win, but it finished safely. Lena’s calm honesty and Theo’s careful help turned a damaged boat into a chance to compete.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What quality does Lena show when she examines the broken mast instead of blaming someone? How does this quality influence the team's next step?

2 How does Theo's careful observation influence the repair?

3 Why is Lena's decision to test the poles important to the conflict?

4 How do Lena's honesty and Theo's willingness to speak help resolve the problem with the official?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence mini-scene about a different conflict. Show one character quality causing an event, then explain how that quality helps resolve the conflict.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline actions or statements that reveal Lena's or Theo's qualities. Number 1, 2, and 3 beside key events that those qualities influence, including the resolution. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What quality does Lena show when she examines the broken mast instead of blaming someone? How does this quality influence the team's next step?	Lena shows calm resourcefulness. It leads her to remember the bamboo poles and search for a way to repair the mast.
2	How does Theo's careful observation influence the repair?	Theo notices the sailcloth and suggests using it to bind a bamboo pole to the mast base.
3	Why is Lena's decision to test the poles important to the conflict?	Testing the poles helps Lena choose a strong one, so the team can make a safer temporary mast instead of using a weak pole.
4	How do Lena's honesty and Theo's willingness to speak help resolve the problem with the official?	Lena explains the testing and invites inspection, while Theo identifies the sailcloth source. Their information allows the official to approve the skiff for the race.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

When the museum's display case jammed before visitors arrived, Priya stayed persistent and looked for the manual. Her patient search showed Sam how to release the latch without forcing it. Because Priya remained calm and Sam followed the directions, they opened the case and avoided damaging the artifact.

Accept responses that identify a character quality and accurately connect it to a specific event or part of the resolution. For Part 3, accept any three-sentence scene that clearly shows a quality influencing both an event and the conflict's outcome.