Choices Shape Conflict

Trace how choices push a conflict toward its ending.

8.7.B "analyze how characters' motivations and behaviors influence events and resolution of the conflict;"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each character action that changes what happens. Circle words that reveal why Lena or Omar acts, then number 1, 2, and 3 beside three events that move the conflict toward its resolution.

Across the Bay

1 At dawn, Lena pedaled to the town dock carrying a jar of blue paint. The annual Lantern Parade was that evening, and she had promised to repaint the faded safety stripe on the old ferry, which would carry visitors across the bay. At the dock, she found Omar, the ferry captain's son, scrubbing the deck with a wire brush. He had scraped away the stripe entirely. "It looked crooked," he said. Lena saw the first clouds gathering over the water and worried that without the bright line, passengers might stumble after dark.

2 Omar refused Lena's paint. His father had been injured in a storm years earlier, and Omar believed a spotless deck would prove he could protect the ferry better than anyone. Lena argued that the stripe was not decoration, but Omar turned away and kept scrubbing. When the wind strengthened, the parade committee arrived with lanterns and boxes of candles. The committee chair announced that the ferry could not leave until its deck was safe. Omar heard the disappointed crowd and watched his father limp down the pier to inspect the boat.

3 Instead of defending his work, Omar admitted that he had removed the stripe because he wanted his father's approval. His father pointed to the wet boards and said, "Protection means noticing what other people need." Omar asked Lena to show him where the line had been. Working together, they painted a wide blue stripe before sunset, then sprinkled sand into the wet paint for grip. The chair approved the deck, and the ferry carried the parade across the bay. As lanterns glowed on the water, Omar thanked Lena for challenging him.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What motivates Omar to remove the safety stripe, and how does his choice create the main conflict?

2. How do Lena's motivation and actions influence the events in the story?

3. What does Omar learn from his father, and how does this lesson change Omar's behavior?

4. How do Omar's final actions help resolve the conflict? Use two details from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly 3 sentences that propose a different decision Omar could make after his father arrives. Explain Omar's motivation, his behavior, and how his choice would change the resolution of the conflict.

ANSWER KEY

Choices Shape Conflict

GRADE 8 · TEKS 8.7.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each character action that changes what happens. Circle words that reveal why Lena or Omar acts, then number 1, 2, and 3 beside three events that move the conflict toward its resolution. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What motivates Omar to remove the safety stripe, and how does his choice create the main conflict?	**Omar wants to prove to his father that he can protect the ferry. Removing the stripe makes the deck unsafe, so the ferry cannot leave for the parade.**
2	How do Lena's motivation and actions influence the events in the story?	**Lena wants passengers to be safe, so she warns Omar about the missing stripe and later helps him repaint it. Her actions help make the ferry safe enough to sail.**
3	What does Omar learn from his father, and how does this lesson change Omar's behavior?	**He learns that protection means noticing what other people need. He stops defending his choice, asks Lena for help, and helps restore the stripe.**
4	How do Omar's final actions help resolve the conflict? Use two details from the passage.	**Omar admits why he removed the stripe and works with Lena to repaint it. They add sand for grip, the chair approves the deck, and the ferry can carry the parade.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Omar might still want his father's approval, but he could decide that safety matters more than looking perfect. He could ask the committee to lend reflective tape and place it along the deck before the rain begins. The ferry would leave sooner, and Omar would resolve the conflict by protecting passengers with a different solution.

Accept responses that accurately connect a character's motivation to an action and explain a believable effect on the conflict's resolution. For the open task, accept varied alternate decisions if all three required parts are included and match the story's situation.