Roles in the Storm

Character roles shape a story's message about responsibility.

10.RL.1.C "Describe the different character roles in literary texts (e.g., foil, tragic, hero) and their impact on the theme."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that reveal Inez's heroic role, Rafi's foil role, and Sol's tragic role, then write H, F, or T in the margin beside each detail. Number two details that help reveal the theme.

The Harbor Light

1 On the night the harbor beacon failed, sixteen-year-old Inez found the lamp room dark and the sea hidden by rain. A fishing boat, the Maribel, was expected before dawn. Inez wanted to climb the slippery tower and relight the lens, although her uncle had ordered everyone to stay inside. Her cousin Rafi laughed at her plan. He said one small boat could wait for clear weather and that no one should risk a fall for strangers. Inez carried oil, matches, and a hand lantern up the narrow stairs.

2 At the tower door, Inez met Captain Sol, the retired keeper. Years earlier, during another storm, Sol had ignored a cracked lamp because repairs seemed expensive. A cargo skiff struck the reef, and two sailors were injured. Since then, Sol had avoided the tower, certain he did not deserve to touch its controls. His guilt did not come from a curse but from his fearful choice that had harmed others. When Inez asked for the lens key, Sol hesitated. Then he handed it over and followed her upstairs, carrying fresh wicks.

3 Rafi reached the lamp room just as wind rattled the windows. He had come to pull Inez down, but he saw Sol's shaking hands and the black water below. While Inez cleaned the lens, Rafi held the lantern steady. Together, the three sent a bright beam across the harbor. The Maribel answered with a horn and turned safely toward shore. Rafi later admitted that he had called caution wisdom when it was really indifference. Sol looked at the rescued boat and said responsibility begins when people stop hiding from the consequences of their choices.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which actions establish Inez as the hero? Explain how her actions develop an idea about responsibility.

2. How does Rafi act as a foil to Inez at the beginning of the story? How does his later action affect the theme?

3. Why does Sol fit the role of a tragic character? Explain how his past and present choices contribute to the theme.

4. State a theme of the passage. Then explain how the hero, foil, and tragic character each help communicate it.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write four sentences about a new situation with a hero, a foil, and a tragic character. Name each role, state a theme, and explain how the characters' choices develop that theme.

ANSWER KEY

Roles in the Storm

GRADE 10 · 10.RL.1.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details that reveal Inez's heroic role, Rafi's foil role, and Sol's tragic role, then write H, F, or T in the margin beside each detail. Number two details that help reveal the theme. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which actions establish Inez as the hero? Explain how her actions develop an idea about responsibility.	**Inez risks climbing the tower, brings supplies, and cleans the lens so the Maribel can reach shore. Her actions show that responsibility can require helping others despite danger.**
2	How does Rafi act as a foil to Inez at the beginning of the story? How does his later action affect the theme?	**Rafi first values his own safety and dismisses the boat's danger, which contrasts with Inez's willingness to help strangers. When he holds the lantern, he moves away from indifference and supports the theme of shared responsibility.**
3	Why does Sol fit the role of a tragic character? Explain how his past and present choices contribute to the theme.	**Sol's earlier fearful, selfish decision caused sailors to be injured, and his guilt makes him avoid the tower. By giving Inez the key and helping her, he begins to face the consequences of his choice, supporting the theme that people must not hide from responsibility.**
4	State a theme of the passage. Then explain how the hero, foil, and tragic character each help communicate it.	**A theme is that people must face consequences and act for others instead of hiding behind fear or indifference. Inez models responsible action, Rafi reveals and then rejects indifference, and Sol confronts guilt from a harmful past choice.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Lena acts as the hero when she opens the community center during a heat wave and organizes water deliveries. Her brother Owen is her foil because he insists that protecting his own supplies matters more than helping neighbors. Mr. Bell is a tragic character because his earlier refusal to share water made a neighbor ill, and guilt now keeps him silent. When he gives Lena the key to the storage room, the characters develop the theme that responsibility requires people to place community needs above fear and self-interest.

Accept other role descriptions and theme statements when they use accurate evidence from the passage. For the open task, accept varied settings and characters if the response clearly identifies all three roles and explains their connection to a defensible theme.