Images of Resilience

Trace how references and images build meaning.

10.RV.1.F "Explain the meaning of literary and classical allusions and figurative language in context and analyze their roles in texts."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline every literary or classical allusion and circle each figurative phrase. In the margin, write a few words explaining what each marked phrase means or reveals about Mara's situation.

The Restored River

1 On the morning before the town's floodwall ceremony, Mara climbed the library's narrow stairwell with a box of paint. The mayor had asked her to repair a mural damaged by last winter's storm, but the project felt less like an honor than a labyrinth built by Daedalus. Each landing led to another locked door, another missing supply, another adult telling her to wait. At the top, she found the mural's river scene scratched by windblown branches. Blue paint had peeled away in curls, and the painted boats seemed to shiver. Mara set down her box, determined to give the river back its voice.

2 Her grandfather, Luis, arrived with a thermos and studied the damage. "Do not become Cassandra," he said, smiling when Mara warned that the ceremony would fail. "Tell people what is wrong, but help them hear you." Mara understood. In the old Greek story, Cassandra's true warnings were ignored. Instead of predicting disaster from the stairwell, Mara carried a list to the custodian and asked two classmates for help. Soon, the library rang with brushes tapping jars. The work was not magic, yet the mural changed hour by hour. A silver line of fresh paint became the river's spine, guiding every boat toward the open water.

3 Near noon, the mayor entered and frowned at the wet floor. Mara's fear rose like a startled bird, but Luis pointed to the repaired scene. The boats no longer shivered. They rode beneath a bright bridge, and the river looked as if it had swallowed the morning sun. The mayor asked why Mara had not simply covered the scratches with a banner. Mara replied that a banner would hide the storm, while the restored mural showed what the town had survived. For her, the river was more than decoration. It became an Odysseus, battered by trials but still moving home. When the guests arrived, Mara spoke, and people listened.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does Mara mean when she describes the project as "a labyrinth built by Daedalus"? How does this allusion characterize her task?

2. Explain Luis's reference to Cassandra. How does understanding this allusion affect Mara's response to the problem?

3. What does the metaphor "the river's spine" mean in context? What role does it play in the description of the repaired mural?

4. What does the Odysseus allusion suggest about the river? How does it develop the passage's idea about the town?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences about a challenge at a school or community place. Include one literary or classical allusion and one example of figurative language, then explain in your third sentence what each device means and how it shapes your idea.

ANSWER KEY

Images of Resilience

GRADE 10 · 10.RV.1.F

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline every literary or classical allusion and circle each figurative phrase. In the margin, write a few words explaining what each marked phrase means or reveals about Mara's situation. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does Mara mean when she describes the project as "a labyrinth built by Daedalus"? How does this allusion characterize her task?	**She means the task feels confusing and difficult to navigate. The allusion emphasizes that each step brings another obstacle.**
2	Explain Luis's reference to Cassandra. How does understanding this allusion affect Mara's response to the problem?	**Cassandra gave true warnings that people ignored. Mara stops only predicting failure and takes practical steps to get help and make people listen.**
3	What does the metaphor "the river's spine" mean in context? What role does it play in the description of the repaired mural?	**The fresh silver line is the river's central, supporting path. The metaphor shows that the repair gives the mural structure and directs the boats toward open water.**
4	What does the Odysseus allusion suggest about the river? How does it develop the passage's idea about the town?	**Like Odysseus, the river has endured trials and continues toward home. The allusion presents the town as resilient after the storm.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

After the debate team's projector failed, I became a small Odysseus, finding a route through each problem until the presentation could continue. My thoughts were a toolbox, opening one useful idea after another. The Odysseus allusion shows my persistence through obstacles, and the toolbox metaphor shows that I used practical ideas to solve the problem.

Accept equivalent explanations that accurately connect each allusion or figurative phrase to its context and role. For Part 3, accept varied allusions and figurative language when the student explains both accurately and clearly.