After the Rain

Trace character through words and choices.

11.RL.1.C "Analyze how characters are revealed through particular lines of dialogue or events."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two lines of dialogue and number two actions that reveal what Lin or Mr. Vale values, fears, or chooses to do. Use your marks to notice how each character responds to the problem.

The Archive Sale

1 By six o'clock, the town library's basement smelled of wet plaster and old paper. Rain had pushed through a cracked window overnight, soaking the boxes prepared for the archive sale. Lin stood beside the worst pile with a clipboard pressed to her chest. "We should cancel," she said. "People will understand." Mr. Vale, the volunteer coordinator, knelt on the floor and lifted a damp atlas. He did not answer at first. Instead, he slid the atlas onto a dry table, opened it carefully, and began separating its pages with sheets of blotting paper.

2 Lin watched him for a moment, then set her clipboard down. "That book is already ruined," she said, more sharply than she meant to. Mr. Vale looked up. "Maybe," he replied. "But we can decide that after we try." He handed her a stack of clean towels. Lin took them, though she kept glancing toward the stairs, where the sale signs waited. When a younger volunteer asked whether the basement was safe, Lin answered, "Stay upstairs. I'll carry the dry boxes out." She climbed the steps twice at a time, returning with plastic bins and a flashlight.

3 Near noon, the rain stopped, but several books remained too wet to sell. Lin arranged them in a row and wrote their titles on a sheet labeled "Repair List." Mr. Vale noticed the list. "I thought you wanted to cancel," he said. Lin gave a small laugh. "I wanted the mess to disappear," she said. "That is not the same as wanting to quit." Then she pointed to a box of dry mysteries. "Put those by the door," she told the younger volunteer. "If customers come, they can help us save the rest." Mr. Vale smiled and carried the box upstairs.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What do Lin's first words, "We should cancel," reveal about her response to the flooded basement? Explain using the detail about her clipboard.

2. How do Mr. Vale's silence, careful handling of the atlas, and reply about trying reveal his character?

3. How does Lin change from the second paragraph to the third paragraph? Use one line of dialogue or action from each paragraph.

4. What do Lin's directions to the younger volunteer reveal about her by the end of the passage? Use two details.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence continuation of the scene. Include one new line of dialogue and one action, then explain in the third sentence what these details reveal about either Lin or Mr. Vale.

ANSWER KEY

After the Rain

GRADE 11 · 11.RL.1.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two lines of dialogue and number two actions that reveal what Lin or Mr. Vale values, fears, or chooses to do. Use your marks to notice how each character responds to the problem. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What do Lin's first words, "We should cancel," reveal about her response to the flooded basement? Explain using the detail about her clipboard.	**Lin is overwhelmed and wants to avoid the problem by canceling the sale. Holding the clipboard to her chest suggests tension or uncertainty.**
2	How do Mr. Vale's silence, careful handling of the atlas, and reply about trying reveal his character?	**They reveal that Mr. Vale is patient, hopeful, and committed to preserving the books instead of giving up quickly.**
3	How does Lin change from the second paragraph to the third paragraph? Use one line of dialogue or action from each paragraph.	**Lin shifts from frustration and doubt to determined problem-solving. She first says the book is already ruined, but later makes a repair list and says wanting the mess gone is not the same as quitting.**
4	What do Lin's directions to the younger volunteer reveal about her by the end of the passage? Use two details.	**Lin has become responsible and practical. She protects the volunteer by telling them to stay upstairs, then organizes the dry books so customers can help save the others.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

"Save the labels," Lin said, gathering the curled price tags into a tray. She placed the tray beside the flashlight and asked the younger volunteer to copy each title before the ink blurred. These details reveal that Lin has become resourceful and focused on solving the problem rather than escaping it.

Accept reasonable character inferences when students connect them to particular dialogue or actions in the passage. For Part 3, accept varied continuations if the response has three sentences, includes dialogue and action, and gives a supported character analysis.