Smoke at Sunrise

Trace how a narrator, setting, and dialogue move a story forward.

4.RL.2 "Craft and Style Determine how an author uses language (dialogue, sensory language, and dialect), characters, and settings to advance the plot. Identify the characteristics of different genres of literary texts (e.g., drama, poems…"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the spoken dialogue, circle sensory words or phrases, and box words that show who is telling the story. These details show how the author builds the setting and moves the plot.

A Warning at the Lighthouse

1 At sunrise, I carried my sketchbook to the old lighthouse on Cedar Point. Salt wind tugged my hat, and gulls cried above the gray waves. My cousin Lena raced up the rocky path behind me. "Wait for me!" she called. We planned to draw the lighthouse before the town's boat parade began at noon along the bay.

2 Near the door, Lena stopped and pointed at a dark cloud rising beyond the harbor. "That smoke is close to the boathouse," she said. My stomach tightened. We hurried down the steps, where the air smelled sharp and smoky. "We need to tell someone," I said, grabbing my phone. Then I saw Mr. Ortiz, the harbor master, checking ropes below.

3 Mr. Ortiz listened, then ran toward the boathouse with us. A small trash fire crackled beside a metal bin, sending orange sparks into the wind. He used a nearby extinguisher, and the fire died with a hiss. "You noticed it early," he told Lena and me. As the clean, cool air returned, we watched the parade boats glide past the lighthouse.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Who is the narrator, and is the story told in first person or third person? Use one word from the passage as evidence.

2. How does Lena's dialogue about the smoke advance the plot?

3. What does the phrase “the air smelled sharp and smoky” help you understand about the setting and the problem?

4. What genre is this text? Name the beginning, middle, and end of its plot.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five-sentence realistic-fiction scene in third person. Include one sensory setting detail, one line of dialogue, and a problem that the dialogue helps begin.

ANSWER KEY

Smoke at Sunrise

GRADE 4 · 4.RL.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the spoken dialogue, circle sensory words or phrases, and box words that show who is telling the story. These details show how the author builds the setting and moves the plot. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Who is the narrator, and is the story told in first person or third person? Use one word from the passage as evidence.	**The unnamed person carrying the sketchbook is the narrator. It is first person, shown by the word "I."**
2	How does Lena's dialogue about the smoke advance the plot?	**Her warning makes the narrator notice the danger and hurry to tell someone.**
3	What does the phrase "the air smelled sharp and smoky" help you understand about the setting and the problem?	**It shows that the smoke is nearby and makes the fire problem feel urgent.**
4	What genre is this text? Name the beginning, middle, and end of its plot.	**It is realistic fiction. Beginning: the narrator and Lena go to the lighthouse. Middle: Lena sees smoke and they warn Mr. Ortiz. End: Mr. Ortiz puts out the fire, and they watch the parade boats.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Jamal stood beside the rainy soccer field after school. Wet grass smelled earthy, and cold drops tapped his hood. "My backpack is missing," he told Priya. Priya pointed to a bench near the gate, so they hurried there. Under the bench, Jamal found his blue backpack.

Accept reasonable sensory details, dialogue, and narrator evidence that students quote or clearly describe from the passage. For the writing task, accept varied realistic scenes if they have five sentences, third-person narration, a sensory detail, dialogue, and a problem connected to the dialogue.