Signal in Snow

Use evidence to trace a challenge, response, and resolution.

4.RL "The student will use textual evidence to demonstrate comprehension and build knowledge from a variety of grade-level complex literary texts read to include fantasy, humor, poetry, realistic fiction, historical fiction, biography..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline Nora's words or actions that show how she responds to the challenge. Number 1, 2, and 3 beside the events that show the challenge, her response, and the resolution, so you can trace how the plot develops.

The Lantern at the Crossing

1 In 1863, eleven-year-old Nora lived near a railroad station in Pennsylvania. Her older brother, Eli, carried messages for the Union army. One cold evening, Eli rushed home with a torn map. "A bridge ahead is weak," he whispered. "The supply train must be warned before dawn." Outside, snow covered the road, and the wind stung Nora's cheeks.

2 Nora wanted to stay by the fire, but she saw Eli's blue lips and shaking hands. "I can go," she said, pulling on her boots. Eli pointed to the lantern. "Wave this at the crossing." Nora trudged through deep snow. At the tracks, she heard the train's distant rumble. She lifted the lantern high and swung it in wide, bright circles.

3 The engineer saw the flashing light and pulled the brake. The train stopped before the broken bridge. By morning, workers had repaired the wooden beams. Eli smiled at Nora. "You faced that storm for people you did not know." Nora warmed her hands near the station stove. She still disliked the icy wind, but she knew that courage meant acting when someone needed help.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the central conflict in the story? How is it resolved?

2. What do Nora's words and actions show about her character? Use two details from the passage.

3. What is a theme of the story? Name the thematic topic and explain the message using one detail from the passage.

4. Who narrates the story, and what is the point of view? Give evidence from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-part plot path for the story: challenge, response, and result. Use a detail from the passage in each part, then write one sentence explaining how Nora's response causes the result.

ANSWER KEY # Signal in Snow

GRADE 4 · 4.RL

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline Nora's words or actions that show how she responds to the challenge. Number 1, 2, and 3 beside the events that show the challenge, her response, and the resolution, so you can trace how the plot develops. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the central conflict in the story? How is it resolved?	**A supply train is heading toward a weak, broken bridge. Nora signals with the lantern, and the engineer stops the train before it reaches the bridge.**
2	What do Nora's words and actions show about her character? Use two details from the passage.	**Nora is courageous and helpful. She says, "I can go," puts on her boots, and walks through deep snow to warn the train.**
3	What is a theme of the story? Name the thematic topic and explain the message using one detail from the passage.	**The topic is courage. The story shows that courage means helping others even when a task is difficult, as Nora goes into the icy storm to warn the train.**
4	Who narrates the story, and what is the point of view? Give evidence from the passage.	**A narrator outside the story tells it in third person. The narrator calls the main character "Nora" and uses "she" to describe her actions and thoughts.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Challenge: Eli brings home a torn map and says the bridge is weak. Response: Nora takes the lantern to the crossing and swings it in bright circles. Result: The engineer stops the train before the broken bridge. Nora's signal causes the engineer to brake, so the train avoids the bridge.

Accept equivalent descriptions that accurately cite the weak bridge, Nora's lantern signal, and the stopped train. For the open task, look for three events in logical plot order and a clear cause-and-effect explanation.