Bridge Choice

Trace how a character's choices shape the plot.

5.RL.1 "Key Ideas and Plot Details Summarize the story or play, including the overarching theme and lessons learned, and explain how they are developed or conveyed through specific details..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number five major plot events in order, then circle the initiating event, climax, and resolution. Underline two details that show how Nia changes.

The Creek Race

1. On the morning of the town's creek race, Nia carried her wooden boat to Maple Creek. Her grandfather had helped her carve it, and she hoped it would glide past the willow trees. At the bridge, she saw that a storm had knocked several boards loose. Race organizers closed the path, so children could not reach the starting bank. Nia's boat suddenly seemed unimportant.

2. Nia remembered the rope, hammer, and spare boards in her family's shed nearby. Although she worried about missing the race, she asked two older cousins to help. They carried the supplies to the bridge and worked with an organizer to fasten the loose boards. As the first racers gathered, one board slipped from Nia's hands and splashed into the creek. The bridge shook.

3. For a moment, Nia wanted to run to the starting bank. Then she tied the rope around the remaining boards and held them steady while her cousins nailed them down. The repaired bridge opened just as the race began. Nia arrived too late to enter, but she cheered as her friends launched their boats. Walking home, she decided that helping the group mattered more than winning alone.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What initiating event creates Nia's central conflict?

2. What is the climax of the story? Explain how it moves the plot toward the resolution.

3. How does Nia change from the beginning to the end of the story? Use two details from the plot.

4. What theme or lesson does the story convey? How do specific events develop that theme?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Create a four-step plot plan for a new story set in a place that creates a problem. Label the initiating event, rising action, climax, and resolution, then write two sentences that state a theme and explain how the character changes.

ANSWER KEY

Bridge Choice

GRADE 5 · 5.RL.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Number five major plot events in order, then circle the initiating event, climax, and resolution. Underline two details that show how Nia changes. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What initiating event creates Nia's central conflict?	**A storm loosens boards on the bridge, and organizers close the path to the race's starting bank.**
2	What is the climax of the story? Explain how it moves the plot toward the resolution.	**The climax is when Nia chooses to tie the rope around the boards and hold them steady. Her choice allows her cousins to finish repairing the bridge.**
3	How does Nia change from the beginning to the end of the story? Use two details from the plot.	**At first, Nia hopes to win the creek race with her boat. She later gives up entering the race to repair the bridge and decides helping the group matters more than winning.**
4	What theme or lesson does the story convey? How do specific events develop that theme?	**A possible theme is that helping others can matter more than personal success. Nia misses the race while repairing the bridge, then cheers for her friends instead of feeling upset about missing her chance to compete.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Initiating Event: At a snowy bus stop, Mateo sees a younger child drop her library book into a slush puddle. Rising Action: He wants to catch the last bus to basketball tryouts, but the child is crying because the book must be returned that afternoon. Climax: As the bus arrives, Mateo chooses to walk the child to the nearby library and explain what happened. Resolution: Mateo misses tryouts, but his coach schedules another tryout after the librarian calls the school. Theme: Helping someone in need can matter more than reaching a personal goal. Mateo changes from thinking only about tryouts to helping the child, and the snowy setting creates the wet-book problem and the pressure of the last bus.

Accept reasonable choices for individual plot events when students support their choices with passage details. For the open task, look for a logical event sequence, a setting that affects the conflict, a clear character change, and a theme supported by the planned events.