Rain Barrel Clues

Track how words, thoughts, actions, and reactions reveal a character.

5.RL.2.A "Describe how an author develops a character through what characters say, think, do, and how other characters respond."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline Lena's spoken words, circle details about her thoughts or actions, and number each response from another character. These clues show how the author develops Lena.

Lena's Repair

1. On Saturday, Lena carried a dented toolbox to the community garden. The rain barrel's spout had come loose, and water splashed onto the path. "I can fix it," she said, though her hands tightened around the screwdriver. Mr. Ortiz, the garden leader, looked at the cloudy sky. "We need it working before the rain returns," he said.

2. Lena knelt beside the barrel and studied the metal clamp. She remembered watching her grandfather mend a bicycle chain, one small turn at a time. "Could someone hold the spout steady?" she asked. Jay, who had been pulling weeds nearby, hurried over and gripped it with both hands. "You already know what to do," he said. Lena took a slower breath and began.

3. The clamp slipped twice. Lena frowned, but she did not toss the tool aside. Instead, she wiped the wet metal, moved the clamp higher, and tried again. When the spout clicked into place, Mr. Ortiz smiled. Jay raised his muddy hands and cheered. Lena laughed softly. "Next time," she said, "I will bring a towel first." As rain tapped the leaves, the barrel filled without spilling.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. At the beginning, what do Lena's words and tightened hands show about how she feels? Use two details from the passage.

2. How does Lena's memory of her grandfather help develop her character?

3. How does Jay's response affect Lena? Use evidence from the passage.

4. What do Mr. Ortiz's smile and Jay's cheer show about how they see Lena after the repair? How do these reactions develop Lena's character?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write four sentences about a new character solving a small problem. Include something the character thinks, says, and does, plus another character's response. In the fourth sentence, explain what these details show about the character.

ANSWER KEY

Rain Barrel Clues

GRADE 5 · 5.RL.2.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline Lena's spoken words, circle details about her thoughts or actions, and number each response from another character. These clues show how the author develops Lena. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	At the beginning, what do Lena's words and tightened hands show about how she feels? Use two details from the passage.	**Lena wants to fix the spout because she says, "I can fix it," but her tightened hands show that she is nervous or unsure.**
2	How does Lena's memory of her grandfather help develop her character?	**It shows that Lena has learned from past experiences and uses that knowledge to solve the problem carefully.**
3	How does Jay's response affect Lena? Use evidence from the passage.	**Jay helps hold the spout and tells Lena that she knows what to do. Lena takes a slower breath and begins the repair, showing that his response helps her feel more confident.**
4	What do Mr. Ortiz's smile and Jay's cheer show about how they see Lena after the repair? How do these reactions develop Lena's character?	**They show that they see Lena as successful and capable. Their reactions support the idea that Lena is determined and able to solve the problem.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Malik picked up the scattered library books and sorted them by their call numbers. He thought, "I can make this shelf neat before the next class arrives." "Please place these returns on the cart," he told his friend Rosa. Rosa nodded and said Malik was dependable, showing that he takes responsibility even when a job is messy.

Accept equivalent evidence-based descriptions of Lena as initially nervous but willing, then more confident, persistent, and capable. For Part 3, accept varied situations if the response includes all required character clues and a reasonable explanation of character development.