# Fence Against Time

Track how opposing characters shape the events of a plot.

**6.RL.1.E** "Explain the role of the protagonist and antagonist on plot events."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline Lila's choices that move the plot forward. Circle Mr. Bex's choices that block or change her plan, then number four major plot events in order.

### The Garden Gap

1. Lila had spent weeks collecting loose boards from neighbors to repair the broken fence around the community garden. On Saturday, she rolled a wagon of boards to the garden gate. Mr. Bex, the garden manager, shook his head. "The fence is unsafe," he said. "No work can begin until we have enough money for nails, posts, and tools." Lila stared at the gap where rabbits had been eating young lettuce. She wanted to save the garden before the spring market.

2. Rather than leave, Lila carried a small table to the town library. She made a sign that read, "Help Mend Our Garden Fence," and placed a jar beside it. Mr. Bex arrived and frowned at the display. He said the library was not a place for garden business. Lila explained that people could see the fence problem and choose to help. After a pause, Mr. Bex allowed the table to stay until closing. By evening, the jar held enough donations to buy supplies.

3. On Monday, Lila brought the donations to the garden. Mr. Bex checked the amount and nodded. He called a repair crew, while Lila sorted the boards she had collected. Together, the crew used new posts and nails to close the gap. The rabbits could no longer enter, and the lettuce began to grow again. At the spring market, Mr. Bex thanked Lila for finding a way around the problem he had raised. Lila smiled because the garden was ready for visitors.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What goal drives Lila's actions as the protagonist? Explain how this goal starts the plot.

2. How does Mr. Bex act as an antagonist at the beginning of the story? What problem does he create for Lila?

3. How does Lila respond to Mr. Bex's obstacle, and how does her response move the plot forward?

4. What change in Mr. Bex's choice helps lead to the fence repair? Explain the result of that choice.

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four- or five-sentence plot about a protagonist with a goal and an antagonist who creates an obstacle. Include at least two plot events, and explain how the characters' choices affect what happens.

ANSWER KEY

# Fence Against Time

GRADE 6 · 6.RL.1.E

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline Lila's choices that move the plot forward. Circle Mr. Bex's choices that block or change her plan, then number four major plot events in order. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | What goal drives Lila's actions as the protagonist? Explain how this goal starts the plot. | **Lila wants to repair the garden fence and protect the lettuce before the spring market. Her goal leads her to collect boards and bring them to the garden.** |
| 2 | How does Mr. Bex act as an antagonist at the beginning of the story? What problem does he create for Lila? | **Mr. Bex refuses to let the repair begin without money for supplies. Lila must find a way to get enough money for nails, posts, and tools.** |
| 3 | How does Lila respond to Mr. Bex's obstacle, and how does her response move the plot forward? | **Lila sets up a donation table at the library. Her action collects enough donations to buy repair supplies.** |
| 4 | What change in Mr. Bex's choice helps lead to the fence repair? Explain the result of that choice. | **Mr. Bex allows Lila's library table to stay until closing. The table collects donations, which pay for supplies and allow the repair crew to fix the fence.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Maya wanted to enter her homemade kite in the park contest. Her older brother, Theo, hid the kite string because he thought the contest would distract her from chores. Maya finished her chores, found spare string in the garage, and repaired the kite before the contest. Theo's obstacle caused Maya to solve a problem, and Maya's choices moved the plot to the contest.

Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text. Accept responses that identify Lila as the protagonist because her goal and choices drive the action. Accept Mr. Bex as the antagonist because he creates obstacles, even though he later changes his choice and helps resolve the conflict.