The Gate Mystery

Track what the narrator knows, feels, and notices.

6.RL.2.C "Explain how an author develops the point of view (e.g., first-person, third person limited, third-person omniscient) of the narrator or speaker in a text and influences how events are described in stories, plays, or poems."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words that show Leena's thoughts, feelings, or senses. Circle details that Leena can notice but cannot fully explain, then use your marks to see how the viewpoint shapes the scene.

Locked Out

1 Leena gripped the handle of the old community-garden gate and listened. Inside, a sprinkler clicked across the bean rows, but she heard no voices. She had promised Mr. Ortiz that she would water the seedlings before sunset. Now dark clouds pressed over the roofs, and the lock would not turn. Leena tried the key again, pretending her hands were not shaking. If the plants dried out, she thought, Mr. Ortiz would know she had forgotten her promise.

2 Then a bicycle bell rang behind her. Leena spun around, certain that someone had followed her from the bus stop. A tall figure stood by the fence, holding a raincoat over one shoulder. Leena could not see the person's face in the dim light. She stepped back and searched for a way to run. The figure lifted one hand, and Leena noticed a small brass key glinting between two fingers. Near the curb, a car passed without slowing.

3 "I left this at the library," Mr. Ortiz called as he came closer. Leena let out a breath she had been holding. He had not been following her, and the garden was safe. When the gate opened, warm, wet soil filled the air. Leena hurried to the seedlings, still embarrassed by the fear that had made every shadow seem dangerous. She decided she would arrive earlier tomorrow, before clouds gathered and the paths grew dim.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What point of view does the narrator use? Give two details that prove it.

2. Which details in paragraph 2 show that the narrator knows only what Leena knows at that moment?

3. How does the limited viewpoint affect the way the figure is described in paragraph 2?

4. How does paragraph 3 change the reader's understanding of the earlier events? Explain how this change connects to Leena's point of view.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Rewrite the moment when the bicycle bell rings in first person, as if Leena is telling it. Write 2 or 3 sentences that include her thoughts and describe the figure using only what she can notice.

ANSWER KEY # The Gate Mystery

GRADE 6 · 6.RL.2.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words that show Leena's thoughts, feelings, or senses. Circle details that Leena can notice but cannot fully explain, then use your marks to see how the viewpoint shapes the scene. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What point of view does the narrator use? Give two details that prove it.	**Third-person limited. The narrator calls the character "Leena" and "she," and it shares Leena's thoughts and feelings, such as her shaking hands and her fear that someone followed her.**
2	Which details in paragraph 2 show that the narrator knows only what Leena knows at that moment?	**Leena cannot see the person's face, thinks someone followed her, and sees only a figure with a raincoat and a brass key.**
3	How does the limited viewpoint affect the way the figure is described in paragraph 2?	**The figure seems mysterious and threatening because readers receive Leena's incomplete, fearful observations instead of knowing who the person is.**
4	How does paragraph 3 change the reader's understanding of the earlier events? Explain how this change connects to Leena's point of view.	**The reader learns that the figure is Mr. Ortiz with the key, not someone following Leena. The earlier scene seemed dangerous because the narrator stayed close to Leena's mistaken fear and limited knowledge.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A bicycle bell rang behind me, and I spun around. In the dim light, I saw a tall figure by the fence and a raincoat over one shoulder, but I could not see the person's face. I stepped back because I feared someone had followed me from the bus stop.

Accept responses that identify third-person limited and explain that readers learn events through Leena's thoughts, senses, and incomplete knowledge. For the rewrite, accept 2 or 3 first-person sentences that include Leena's perspective without revealing the figure's identity before she learns it.