

Lamp Before Sunset

Track how a conflict shapes each part of a plot.

7.RL.1.B “Analyze how the central conflict and key elements (e.g., exposition, initiating event, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution) impact plot development.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the words that state Maya’s central conflict. Then number the plot events: 1 for exposition, 2 for the initiating event, 3 for rising action, 4 for climax, 5 for falling action, and 6 for resolution.

The Harbor Lamp

- ① At dawn, Maya unlocked the boathouse at Harbor Park, where she volunteered before the town’s evening lantern regatta. Her grandfather had built the small signal lamp that guided each rowboat away from the rocky inlet. Maya checked its battery, then found the lamp dark and its wiring chewed through by rats. The repair shop closed in two hours, and boats would begin gathering at sunset. Maya wanted to fix the lamp, but she had never repaired anything electrical alone.
- ② She carried the lamp to Mr. Ibarra’s workshop, but a parade had blocked the street. Maya ran through the park instead, stopping at the community garden to borrow wire cutters from her neighbor Jo. At the workshop, Mr. Ibarra showed her how to strip and join the wires, yet the first connection sparked and failed. With rain clouds moving over the harbor, Maya returned to the boathouse, replaced the damaged section, and tested the lamp again. Nothing happened. Then she noticed a loose switch beneath the battery tray.
- ③ Maya pressed the switch into place, and the lamp flashed across the inlet just as the first boats rounded the point. The sudden light let the rowers see the rocks, and Maya heard the crowd cheer from shore. Mr. Ibarra arrived with a dry cloth and helped her seal the battery tray against the rain. At sunset, the lamp shone steadily while the regatta passed safely. Maya labeled the repaired wires and left a note for the next volunteer, knowing the lamp would be ready tomorrow.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What is Maya's central conflict? What event begins the conflict?

2 Identify two rising-action events. Explain how each event makes Maya's conflict harder or more urgent.

3 What is the climax of the story? Explain how it changes the direction of the plot.

4 How do the falling action and resolution show the effects of Maya solving the conflict?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a six-sentence mini-plot about a character solving a problem. Use sentence 1 for exposition, sentence 2 for the initiating event, sentence 3 for rising action, sentence 4 for the climax, sentence 5 for falling action, and sentence 6 for the resolution and an explanation of how the climax led to it.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the words that state Maya's central conflict. Then number the plot events: 1 for exposition, 2 for the initiating event, 3 for rising action, 4 for climax, 5 for falling action, and 6 for resolution. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is Maya's central conflict? What event begins the conflict?	Maya must repair the broken signal lamp before the regatta, even though she has not repaired electrical equipment alone. The conflict begins when she finds the lamp dark and the wiring chewed through by rats.
2	Identify two rising-action events. Explain how each event makes Maya's conflict harder or more urgent.	The parade blocks Maya's route to the workshop, delaying her. Then her first wire connection sparks and fails, while approaching rain and sunset add urgency.
3	What is the climax of the story? Explain how it changes the direction of the plot.	The climax occurs when Maya presses the loose switch into place and the lamp flashes as the boats round the point. It changes the plot because the lamp now works and can guide the rowers away from the rocks.
4	How do the falling action and resolution show the effects of Maya solving the conflict?	In the falling action, Mr. Ibarra helps Maya seal the battery tray. In the resolution, the lamp shines through the regatta, the boats pass safely, and Maya prepares the repaired lamp for the next volunteer.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the school science fair, Luis displays a model bridge made from craft sticks and prepares to test its weight. When a classmate bumps the table, one support snaps, creating a conflict because Luis must repair the bridge before the judges arrive. He tries to tape the support, but the tape bends under a stack of books. With the judges at his table, Luis spots extra craft sticks in his supply box and quickly builds a triangular brace that holds the bridge steady. After the test, his teacher helps him move the bridge to a safer table. Luis explains the new brace to the judges, and the successful repair resolves the conflict because the climax gave him a way to save his project.

Accept equivalent descriptions of the plot elements when students support them with details from the passage. For the open task, accept varied conflicts and outcomes if all six plot stages are present and the final sentence correctly connects the climax to the resolution.