# Light Across Harbor

Trace conflict, character change, and an implied theme.

**7.RL.1** "Key Ideas and Plot Details Describe stated or implied themes of texts and analyze their development throughout the texts using specific details. Analyze how the central conflict and key elements (e.g., exposition, initiating event…"

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline two details that suggest a theme. Then number six plot moments from 1 to 6 to show the exposition, initiating event, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution.

### The Harbor Light

1 On the windy island of Brindle, thirteen-year-old Lena spent Saturdays repairing radios in her grandmother's shed. The annual Harbor Night festival was three days away when she heard that the old lighthouse lamp had failed. Without its beam, fishing boats would enter the bay in darkness. Lena offered to fix it, but harbor master Mr. Vale refused. He said the lamp belonged to the town, not to a child with loose wires and borrowed tools. Lena left his office angry, carrying a box of copper contacts her grandmother had saved.

2 At the lighthouse, Lena found the lens coated with salt and a cracked contact inside the lamp. She cleaned the lens, then fitted the copper piece, but the beam flickered once and died. Rain began to slap the windows. Mr. Vale arrived to order her down before the storm worsened. Instead, Lena asked him to hold the ladder while she climbed to the roof and traced the wire to a corroded switch. When thunder shook the tower, she had to choose whether to stop or cut away the damaged section.

3 Lena cut the wire and joined the ends with a waterproof connector from her radio kit. The lamp blazed across the harbor just as the first boat rounded the point. Mr. Vale watched silently while Lena climbed down. Later, he recorded the repair in the town log and insisted that future repairs needed approval. Lena returned the unused tools to her grandmother and wrote a repair plan for the town council. By morning, she understood that proving herself mattered less than making the harbor safer with others.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What implied theme does the story develop? Use two details to explain how the theme develops.

2. What is the central conflict, and how does the initiating event set the plot in motion?

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

4. How do Lena and Mr. Vale influence plot events as the protagonist and antagonist? Describe one way Lena is dynamic and one way Mr. Vale is mostly static.

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a six-sentence scene set one week after Harbor Night. Give Lena a new obstacle, show a decision that reflects or challenges a theme, and show how Mr. Vale's role influences one plot event. Include a detail showing whether Lena or Mr. Vale changes.

ANSWER KEY

# Light Across Harbor

GRADE 7 · 7.RL.1

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details that suggest a theme. Then number six plot moments from 1 to 6 to show the exposition, initiating event, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | What implied theme does the story develop? Use two details to explain how the theme develops. | **A theme is that using your skills to help a community matters more than proving yourself. Lena begins angry after Mr. Vale dismisses her, but she later asks for help, writes a repair plan, and realizes that harbor safety matters more than proving herself.** |
| 2 | What is the central conflict, and how does the initiating event set the plot in motion? | **The central conflict is Lena's effort to repair the lighthouse despite Mr. Vale's refusal to trust her. The failed lamp creates danger for boats, and Mr. Vale's refusal pushes Lena to try to solve the problem herself.** |
| 3 | What is the climax of the story? Explain how this moment changes the direction of the plot. | **The climax is when Lena must decide whether to stop or cut away the damaged wire during the storm. Her choice to cut it allows her to repair the lamp, leading to the light returning and the boat entering safely.** |
| 4 | How do Lena and Mr. Vale influence plot events as the protagonist and antagonist? Describe one way Lena is dynamic and one way Mr. Vale is mostly static. | **Lena is the protagonist because her actions drive the repair effort. She changes from wanting to prove herself to valuing shared safety and planning. Mr. Vale is the antagonist because his refusal and orders create obstacles, and he remains mostly static because he continues to insist on approval for repairs.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A week later, a ferry captain asked to hang a new signal bell beside the lighthouse. Mr. Vale rejected the idea because the council had not approved the bell. Lena wanted to help, but she first drew a plan showing where the bell could be mounted safely. When a small boat neared the rocks in thick fog, she rang the bell to warn it away. Mr. Vale saw that her planning protected the harbor, and he agreed to present the plan to the council. Lena learned that working carefully with others could earn trust.

Accept theme statements that are supported by details about Lena's shift from seeking recognition to protecting the community. For the open task, accept varied plots if the response has six sentences and clearly includes an obstacle, a theme-related choice, Mr. Vale's influence, and character change or continued static behavior.