Rainy Square Voices

Analyze style, tone, and changing character perspectives.

7.RL.2 "Craft and Style Analyze how elements of authors' styles (e.g., word choice, dialogue, form, voice, rhyme, rhythm, and/or sound devices) contribute to meaning in various forms of prose and poetry..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words and images that create the mood, circle the dialogue, and number each place where the narrator reveals Leo's or Mira's thoughts. These choices show how style and point of view shape your understanding of the scene.

The Blue Umbrella

1 At dusk, Leo carried the last library books across the town square, holding his jacket over them as rain began to tap the covers. The fountain, usually cheerful, coughed brown leaves into its basin. "We can wait under the awning," said Mira, the library's student helper. Leo shook his head. His grandmother needed her mystery novel tonight, and he pictured her lamp glowing beside the empty chair. The sharp wind felt like a warning, but he hurried toward Maple Street.

2 Mira watched him disappear past the bakery, where the sign banged against its chain. She did not call again. Leo always acted brave when worry tugged at him, she thought, and that made him careless. Yet she remembered the empty chair in his grandmother's house. Mira grabbed the umbrella from the return desk and ran after him. "Leo, take this!" she called. Her voice rose above the rain, firm as a bell, though her hands trembled around the umbrella handle.

3 Near the bus stop, Leo heard Mira behind him and stopped. He wanted to refuse the umbrella because accepting help felt like admitting fear. Mira wanted to scold him, but she saw the books tucked safely beneath his jacket and understood why he had rushed. For a moment, the storm seemed to hold its breath. Then Leo took the umbrella. Together, they crossed Maple Street, small beneath its blue dome. The rain still struck the pavement, but the square no longer seemed warning them away.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the description of the fountain "coughing" brown leaves help create the tone at the beginning of the passage?

2. What do Mira's two lines of dialogue reveal about her feelings toward Leo? Use both lines in your answer.

3. What point of view does the narrator use? Give two details that prove your answer.

4. How does knowing both Leo's and Mira's thoughts in paragraph 3 affect your interpretation of Leo taking the umbrella?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence scene about two characters facing an approaching problem. Use third-person omniscient point of view, include one line of dialogue and at least two sensory word choices, then add one sentence explaining the tone your choices create.

ANSWER KEY

Rainy Square Voices

GRADE 7 · 7.RL.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words and images that create the mood, circle the dialogue, and number each place where the narrator reveals Leo's or Mira's thoughts. These choices show how style and point of view shape your understanding of the scene. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the description of the fountain "coughing" brown leaves help create the tone at the beginning of the passage?	**It makes the square seem unpleasant and slightly threatening, creating an uneasy tone.**
2	What do Mira's two lines of dialogue reveal about her feelings toward Leo? Use both lines in your answer.	**"We can wait under the awning" shows that Mira is practical and concerned. "Leo, take this!" shows that her concern becomes urgent when he leaves in the storm.**
3	What point of view does the narrator use? Give two details that prove your answer.	**The narrator uses third-person omniscient point of view. It reveals Leo's thoughts about his grandmother and fear of accepting help, and it reveals Mira's thoughts about Leo and her desire to scold him.**
4	How does knowing both Leo's and Mira's thoughts in paragraph 3 affect your interpretation of Leo taking the umbrella?	**It shows that both characters care about each other. Leo accepts help despite his fear, and Mira understands his reason for rushing.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Jada paused outside the dark auditorium as cold air curled around her ankles. "The power will return soon," Malik said, although he feared the silent building. Jada wanted to believe him, but the dusty smell and distant thump made her stomach tighten. They stepped inside together, listening to the rain rattle the roof. The words cold, dark, dusty, and silent create a nervous, suspenseful tone.

Accept reasonable tone descriptions when students support them with specific words, images, dialogue, or narration from the passage. For the open task, check for third-person narration that reveals both characters' thoughts, dialogue, sensory language, and a tone explanation connected to the student's own word choices.