Routes Through Fog

Trace how changing settings shape choices and events.

7.RL.3.A "Explain how particular elements of stories or dramas interact including how settings shape and influence characters and plot."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Write 1 by Mira's decision at the harbor, 2 by her choice in the net loft, and 3 by her route choice near the square. Circle each setting detail that influences one of these choices, and write its matching number beside it.

The Lantern Route

1 On the morning of the town's Lantern Festival, Mira carried a box of paper lights down to the harbor. Fog pressed against the docks, hiding the far shore and turning every bell buoy into a muffled clank. Her brother Tomas was supposed to bring the battery cart from the ferry landing, but no boat could cross in the thick fog. By noon, the festival parade would need the lights. Mira watched the empty water and decided she could not wait for him.

2 Behind the fish market, the old net loft stood on pilings above the tide. Its narrow stairs shook under Mira's boots, and rain leaked through holes in the roof. Inside, she found coils of rope, cracked oars, and a hand-crank generator once used for emergency radios. Because the damp loft held no safe batteries, Mira chose the heavy generator instead. She tied it to a wagon with rope, then began pulling it uphill toward the square.

3 The town square was open to the river wind, and gusts snapped the festival banners against their poles. At the steepest part of the hill, Mira's wagon rolled backward, nearly dragging her into the street. She remembered the sheltered alley beside the bakery, where delivery carts used a gentler ramp. Mira steered there, even though the longer route would make her late. The ramp let her reach the square with the generator. When Tomas finally arrived after the fog lifted, he found Mira cranking power for the first lanterns.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the foggy harbor influence Mira's decision and the next event in the plot?

2. Explain how the conditions in the net loft shape Mira's choice of equipment.

3. How does the steep, windy approach to the square change Mira's route?

4. How do the three settings, the harbor, net loft, and square, move the plot toward lighting the festival lanterns?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence scene set in a place different from the passage. Include two details about the setting, show how one detail changes a character's decision, and show the resulting plot event.

ANSWER KEY

Routes Through Fog

GRADE 7 · 7.RL.3.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Write 1 by Mira's decision at the harbor, 2 by her choice in the net loft, and 3 by her route choice near the square. Circle each setting detail that influences one of these choices, and write its matching number beside it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the foggy harbor influence Mira's decision and the next event in the plot?	**The fog stops the ferry from crossing, so Mira decides not to wait for Tomas and looks for another way to power the lights.**
2	Explain how the conditions in the net loft shape Mira's choice of equipment.	**The damp loft has no safe batteries, but it contains a hand-crank generator. Mira chooses the heavy generator and pulls it in a wagon.**
3	How does the steep, windy approach to the square change Mira's route?	**The wagon rolls backward on the steep hill, so Mira takes the sheltered bakery alley with a gentler ramp, even though it is longer.**
4	How do the three settings, the harbor, net loft, and square, move the plot toward lighting the festival lanterns?	**The harbor fog prevents Tomas from bringing batteries, the net loft provides a generator, and the difficult route to the square makes Mira use the bakery alley to deliver it.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Snow filled the school courtyard, covering the usual path to the library. Lena saw that the metal steps were icy, so she decided not to carry the class's model alone. She asked two classmates to help her take the long indoor route. Their group reached the library late, but the model arrived unbroken.

For Part 3, accept any four-sentence scene with two setting details, a setting-driven decision, and a clear plot result.