Light Across Water

Trace how a changing setting shapes choices and events.

7.RL.3 "Integration of Concepts Explain how particular elements of stories or dramas interact including how settings shape and influence characters and plot. Compare and contrast texts in different forms or genres (e.g., stories and poems..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details about the harbor, channel, or Beacon Rock that affect Talia's choices, then circle the choice each detail influences. This shows how setting shapes character and plot.

The Channel to Beacon Rock

1 At dawn, Talia pushed her rowboat through the narrow harbor of Grayport. The town sat between steep cliffs, and every window faced the sea. Talia carried medicine to her grandfather, the keeper of a lighthouse on Beacon Rock, a small islet beyond the harbor. Usually, fishermen crossed the channel in minutes. That morning, however, fog covered the water so completely that the bell buoy sounded like it came from nowhere. Talia slowed her oars and listened, because one wrong turn could send her boat toward the cliffs.

2 Near the middle of the channel, Talia heard a motor sputter. Mr. Vale's fishing boat drifted beside a red marker, its net wrapped around the propeller. He waved her away, fearing that two boats would be harder to guide in the fog. Talia remembered her grandfather's rule: when the sea hides your path, choose the safest help you can give. She tied her boat to the marker, rowed Mr. Vale a spare line, and pulled his boat behind hers. The delay meant she might not reach the lighthouse before noon.

3 By late morning, wind tore the fog into moving strips. Talia could finally see Beacon Rock, but waves broke white against its landing stairs. From the harbor, the lighthouse had looked like a steady promise. Up close, its dark stone walls made Talia feel small, yet the flashing lamp gave her a direction. She waited for a wave to fall, then guided both boats into the sheltered cove behind the rock. Her grandfather met them with a rope. Talia arrived late, but the dangerous channel had taught her to lead with care.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the fog at the beginning of the passage shape Talia's actions?

2. How does the fog influence Talia's response when she finds Mr. Vale's boat?

3. Compare the harbor and Beacon Rock. How does each setting affect Talia's feelings or choices?

4. How does Talia's view of the lighthouse change from a distance to up close, and how does that change affect the plot?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly two sentences about a character delivering something important in a setting different from the passage. Include one setting detail, one choice it causes, and one plot result.

ANSWER KEY

Light Across Water

GRADE 7 · 7.RL.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three details about the harbor, channel, or Beacon Rock that affect Talia's choices, then circle the choice each detail influences. This shows how setting shapes character and plot. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the fog at the beginning of the passage shape Talia's actions?	**The fog makes Talia slow her oars and listen carefully because she could turn toward the cliffs.**
2	How does the fog influence Talia's response when she finds Mr. Vale's boat?	**Because the fog makes travel dangerous, Talia chooses to help Mr. Vale safely by giving him a line and pulling his boat behind hers.**
3	Compare the harbor and Beacon Rock. How does each setting affect Talia's feelings or choices?	**In the harbor and channel, cliffs and fog make Talia cautious. At Beacon Rock, waves make her wait, while the lamp helps her choose the sheltered cove.**
4	How does Talia's view of the lighthouse change from a distance to up close, and how does that change affect the plot?	**From the harbor, the lighthouse seems like a steady promise. Up close, it makes Talia feel small, but its lamp guides her to a safe landing place.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In a crowded subway station, Jamal sees a flooded stairwell and chooses an overhead walkway instead. The detour makes him late, but he delivers the missing violin before the concert begins.

Accept answers that accurately connect a setting detail to Talia's feelings, choices, or the events that follow. For Part 3, accept any two-sentence response with a clear setting detail, character choice, and resulting plot event.