

Light Through Fog

Trace how conflict, setting, and character change shape a story.

7.RL “The student will use textual evidence to demonstrate comprehension and build knowledge from a variety of grade-level complex literary texts read to include short stories, literary nonfiction, novels, poetry, and drama...”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number the initiating event, rising action, climax, and resolution in the order they occur. Underline two details that show how Mara changes.

The Darkened Lamp

- ① By late afternoon, fog had swallowed the harbor, muffling the bell buoys and turning the pier rails slick. Mara, fourteen, sat in her uncle's bait shop, repairing nets while he delivered medicine across town. She hated the old lighthouse on Gull Point. Three years earlier, its narrow stairs had trapped her during a storm, and since then she had avoided the cliff path. When the harbor master rushed in, he held a soaked telegram: a fishing boat was approaching, but the lighthouse lamp had gone dark.
- ② Mara wanted to tell him to send someone else, yet the boat's horn sounded once, then again, farther out than it should have been. She grabbed the shop's oil can and ran into the wet grayness. At the cliff, wind shoved at her coat, and each step recalled the night she had once waited, shaking, for rescue. Halfway up the lighthouse stairs, she heard the boat horn fade. Mara nearly turned back. Instead, she pressed one hand against the cold wall, climbed faster, and found the lamp's fuel line clogged with salt.
- ③ Using a wire from her net kit, Mara cleared the line and filled the lamp. The flame caught with a small blue flicker, then spread into a steady gold beam that sliced through the fog. Below, the boat answered with three sharp horn blasts and angled toward the safe channel. Mara stayed at the window until its deck lights passed the breakwater. The next morning, she walked the cliff path again to return the oil can. The stairs were still narrow, but she no longer saw them as a cage.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What implied theme does the story develop? Use two details from different parts of the story to support your answer.

2 What is the climax of the story, and how does it lead to the resolution?

3 How does the harbor setting shape both the conflict and Mara's actions? Use two specific details.

4 How does the author's word choice shift the tone from the beginning to the end of the story? Use quoted words or phrases.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a 5 to 7 sentence plot sketch about a character who must act in a challenging setting. Show an initiating problem, a climax, a resolution, and a change in the character.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Number the initiating event, rising action, climax, and resolution in the order they occur. Underline two details that show how Mara changes. 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 from different parts of the story to support your answer.	A theme is that facing a past fear can give a person the strength to act. At first, Mara avoids the lighthouse because she was trapped there during a storm. Later, she climbs the stairs to repair the lamp and no longer sees them as a cage.
2	What is the climax of the story, and how does it lead to the resolution?	The climax occurs when Mara clears the clogged fuel line and the lamp begins to shine. This lets the fishing boat find the safe channel, and the resolution shows Mara returning to the lighthouse without the same fear.
3	How does the harbor setting shape both the conflict and Mara's actions? Use two specific details.	The fog and dark lighthouse create danger because the approaching boat cannot safely find the channel. The windy cliff and narrow stairs make Mara's trip difficult and force her to face the place she fears.
4	How does the author's word choice shift the tone from the beginning to the end of the story? Use quoted words or phrases.	The beginning has a tense tone through words such as "fog," "muffling," "slick," and "wet grayness." The ending becomes hopeful through the "steady gold beam," the boat's answer, and Mara's new view of the stairs.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

During a heat wave, Eli watered plants at the community garden, but he avoided the locked tool shed because a wasp had stung him there. When the irrigation hose split, water rushed across the paths and threatened the young seedlings. Eli tried to block the leak with pots, but the water kept spreading. Hearing the pump strain, he entered the shed, found the shutoff valve, and turned it. The garden was saved, and he later repaired the hose with the gardener. Eli learned that fear can warn him, but it does not have to make his choices.

Accept supported theme statements that explain Mara's change, even if students use different wording. For the open task, look for a setting that affects events, a clear plot sequence, and evidence that the character changes.