Choices at the Fair

Use dialogue and events to support character analysis.

8.RL.1.C "Justify the decisions and actions of dynamic versus static characters using dialogue or specific events from the text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each piece of dialogue that reveals a character's choice, and number two events that show a character acting on a choice. Use your marks to justify whether each character changes or stays the same.

The Makers' Fair

1. On Monday, the town library posted a notice: its Saturday makers' fair would be canceled unless volunteers repaired the broken display shelves. Tessa, who had built tiny wooden boats with her grandfather, wanted to help. Her partner Rowan frowned at the splintered boards. "We should wait for an adult crew," he said. Tessa agreed, remembering the crooked birdhouse she had made last year. She signed neither of their names on the volunteer sheet and walked away.

2. After school, Tessa found a sketchbook on the library steps. Inside, children had drawn inventions they hoped to show at the fair, including a wheelchair ramp made from recycled plastic. At the bottom of one page, a note read, "Please do not cancel our day." Tessa carried the book to Rowan. "I was worried about failing, but these kids lose their chance if we do nothing," she said. Rowan tapped the page. "Waiting is still safer," he replied. Tessa borrowed safety goggles, asked the librarian for tools, and wrote her name on the sheet.

3. On Saturday, Tessa measured boards, listened to the librarian's directions, and guided younger volunteers as they sanded rough edges. When a shelf tilted, she stopped the work, adjusted its brace, and tried again. Rowan arrived with a first-aid kit, but he stayed near the door. "I will call the maintenance office if this gets risky," he told her. Even after the shelves stood straight, Rowan urged Tessa to leave the final inspection to professionals. Tessa thanked him, then invited the children to arrange their inventions for the fair.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What decision does Tessa make on Monday? Use dialogue or a specific event to justify why she makes that decision.

2. How is Tessa a dynamic character? Use one detail from early in the passage and one detail from later in the passage.

3. Why is Rowan a static character? Support your answer with dialogue or an event from the passage.

4. How do Tessa's and Rowan's final decisions differ? Use one passage detail about each character.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write 3 or 4 sentences explaining which character makes the more effective decision for the makers' fair. Include one quoted line of dialogue and one specific event from the passage to support your claim.

ANSWER KEY

Choices at the Fair

GRADE 8 · 8.RL.1.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each piece of dialogue that reveals a character's choice, and number two events that show a character acting on a choice. Use your marks to justify whether each character changes or stays the same. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What decision does Tessa make on Monday? Use dialogue or a specific event to justify why she makes that decision.	**Tessa decides not to volunteer at first. She agrees with Rowan that they should wait and remembers making a crooked birdhouse.**
2	How is Tessa a dynamic character? Use one detail from early in the passage and one detail from later in the passage.	**Tessa changes from avoiding the repair because she fears failure to volunteering, getting tools, and helping repair the shelves after she considers the children's lost opportunity.**
3	Why is Rowan a static character? Support your answer with dialogue or an event from the passage.	**Rowan stays cautious throughout the passage. He first says they should wait for an adult crew, and later says waiting is safer and urges Tessa to leave inspection to professionals.**
4	How do Tessa's and Rowan's final decisions differ? Use one passage detail about each character.	**Tessa chooses to continue helping and invites children to arrange inventions, while Rowan still wants professionals to handle the final inspection because he is concerned about risk.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Tessa makes the more effective decision because she responds to the children's need instead of letting fear control her. She says, "I was worried about failing, but these kids lose their chance if we do nothing," then borrows safety goggles and asks the librarian for tools. Her decision helps prepare the shelves so the children can arrange their inventions for the fair.

Accept claims that accurately identify Tessa as dynamic and Rowan as static when students support them with relevant dialogue or events. For the open response, accept either character as the more effective decision-maker if the student gives a logical explanation, one direct quotation, and one specific event.