Bridge Between Views

Trace how two characters see the same problem differently.

8.RL.2.C "Analyze how an author develops and contrasts the points of view of different characters or narrators in a text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that reveal Mara's point of view, circle details that reveal Leo's point of view, and number one detail that shows where their views begin to overlap. These marks will help you analyze how the author develops and contrasts their perspectives.

The Closed Footbridge

1 By noon, the town council had closed the footbridge after finding loose boards. Mara stood at the orange barrier, watching students take the long road around the creek. To her, the bridge was more than a shortcut. Her grandfather had taught her to fish beneath it, and its chipped blue rails made the town feel like home. When officials called it "unsafe," Mara heard something colder: "unwanted." She sketched the bridge in her notebook, carefully drawing every worn plank before workers could remove it.

2 Leo, who delivered groceries after school, saw the closure differently. Last spring, he had stepped through a cracked board while carrying a bag of apples. He caught himself on the rail, but the apples rolled into the creek. Since then, each groan of wood had sounded like a warning. He did not dislike the bridge, but he believed memories could not hold up rotting boards. At the council meeting, he asked for repairs before anyone got hurt.

3 Mara heard Leo's request and felt her face warm. She thought he cared more about schedules than the place itself. Leo noticed her drawing and assumed she wanted the bridge left exactly as it was. Yet when the engineer explained that the railings could be saved and new boards added, both listened closely. Mara asked whether the blue paint could remain. Leo asked how quickly the path could reopen. Their questions revealed a shared hope for the bridge, even though fear of loss guided Mara and fear of injury guided Leo.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does Mara mean when she hears “unwanted” instead of “unsafe”? Use details from the passage to explain her point of view.

2. How does Leo’s experience with the cracked board develop his point of view about the bridge?

3. Compare Mara’s sketching with Leo’s request at the council meeting. What does each action reveal about the character’s priorities?

4. How do Mara’s and Leo’s final questions show both a contrast and a connection between their points of view?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write 3 to 4 sentences analyzing how the author develops and contrasts Mara’s and Leo’s points of view. Use one passage detail for each character and explain one shared hope or concern.

ANSWER KEY

Bridge Between Views

GRADE 8 · 8.RL.2.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details that reveal Mara's point of view, circle details that reveal Leo's point of view, and number one detail that shows where their views begin to overlap. These marks will help you analyze how the author develops and contrasts their perspectives. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does Mara mean when she hears "unwanted" instead of "unsafe"? Use details from the passage to explain her point of view.	**Mara believes the bridge may be removed, not just repaired. Because it holds memories of fishing with her grandfather and makes the town feel like home, she sees its closure as a loss of something valued.**
2	How does Leo's experience with the cracked board develop his point of view about the bridge?	**Falling through the board makes Leo see the bridge as dangerous. The experience causes him to focus on repairs and preventing injuries.**
3	Compare Mara's sketching with Leo's request at the council meeting. What does each action reveal about the character's priorities?	**Mara's sketch preserves the bridge's appearance and memories, showing that she values its history. Leo's request for repairs shows that he prioritizes safety.**
4	How do Mara's and Leo's final questions show both a contrast and a connection between their points of view?	**Mara asks about keeping the blue paint, while Leo asks about reopening the path, so they still focus on different concerns. Both questions show that they want the bridge to remain part of the town.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The author develops Mara's point of view through her memories of fishing with her grandfather and her careful sketch of the worn bridge. These details show that she fears losing a place that feels like home. Leo's experience of falling through a cracked board makes him focus on safety and repairs. Although their fears differ, their questions about saving the paint and reopening the path show that both want the bridge to remain useful.

Accept responses that identify Mara's fear of losing the bridge's meaning and Leo's fear of injury. Students should support comparisons with accurate details and explain that the characters share a desire to preserve the bridge in some form.