# The Library Vote

Track allusions and figurative language as they shape an argument.

**9.RV.1.F** "Explain the meaning of literary and classical allusions and figurative language in context and analyze their roles in texts."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline every literary or classical allusion and circle every phrase that uses figurative language. Number your marks in the order you find them so you can trace how these choices build the passage's message.

### Before the Final Vote

1. On the morning the town council planned to close the old library, Maya arrived before sunrise with a thermos and a stack of protest flyers. The building's stone lions watched the empty street, and the front windows held the gray dawn like dim mirrors. Inside, dust floated through the reading room, turning each beam of light into a narrow river. Maya had learned to read beneath those lamps. Now the library seemed to hold its breath, waiting for someone to speak before the final vote.

2. Her friend Luis hurried in carrying a folder of budget reports. "The council says the sale will save money," Luis said, but he warned that selling the archives could open Pandora's box. One quick decision, he explained, might release problems nobody could easily return to storage. Maya pointed at a photograph of factory workers studying English after their shifts. "The library is not a museum of dead paper," she said. "It is a bridge between the town's past and the people who will shape its future."

3. During public comments, the council chamber filled with neighbors, teachers, and former students. Maya stepped to the microphone, her knees unsteady. She remembered Icarus, who flew too close to the sun because he ignored a warning. The council's plan promised a quick rescue, but Maya argued that rushing toward it could burn the town. Her voice was a match in the quiet room, and other speakers began to add their stories. By evening, the council delayed the vote and asked for a new funding plan.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does the allusion to Pandora's box mean in paragraph 2? How does it support Luis's warning?

2. Explain the meaning of Maya's description of the library as “a bridge.” What role does this metaphor play in her argument?

3. What does Maya's reference to Icarus suggest about the council's plan? How does the allusion strengthen her point?

4. What does “Her voice was a match in the quiet room” mean? What effect does this figurative language have on the ending?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence statement urging a decision maker to protect a place or program you value. Include one classical or literary allusion and one example of figurative language, and make each meaning clear through context.

ANSWER KEY

# The Library Vote

GRADE 9 · 9.RV.1.F

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline every literary or classical allusion and circle every phrase that uses figurative language. Number your marks in the order you find them so you can trace how these choices build the passage's message. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | What does the allusion to Pandora's box mean in paragraph 2? How does it support Luis's warning? | **It means the sale could cause many difficult problems that cannot easily be undone. It supports Luis's warning that a quick choice may have harmful consequences.** |
| 2 | Explain the meaning of Maya's description of the library as "a bridge." What role does this metaphor play in her argument? | **The library connects the town's history with people who will shape its future. The metaphor argues that the library remains useful and valuable, rather than being only a place for old materials.** |
| 3 | What does Maya's reference to Icarus suggest about the council's plan? How does the allusion strengthen her point? | **It suggests that the council may be rushing into a dangerous decision while ignoring warnings. The allusion makes the plan seem risky and overconfident.** |
| 4 | What does "Her voice was a match in the quiet room" mean? What effect does this figurative language have on the ending? | **It means Maya's speech sparked other people to speak. It shows that one person's action helped begin a larger public response, leading the council to delay the vote.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Cutting the community garden would be like opening Pandora's box, because losing its free vegetables and lessons would create problems that a small budget savings could not solve. The garden is the neighborhood's green heartbeat, sending food, skills, and friendship through the block. Please keep it open while the city seeks another way to reduce costs.

Accept reasonable explanations that use passage context to identify the risks, connections, or effects created by each allusion or figurative phrase. For Part 3, accept varied allusions and figurative language if both are used accurately and their meanings are clear from the student's writing.