Story Structure

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

Name _____ Date _____

Read the text. Circle what each part of the text tells the reader.

READ THIS FIRST

The Ferry Crossing: A Poem and a Play

Version 1: A Poem by Yusuf

The ferry horn gives one long blast.
The dock slips out of view.
Teta and I stand at the rail
Where gray waves turn to blue.

The salty wind tugs at my hood.
The seagulls dip and call.
I point and chatter, but Teta
Says nothing much at all.

A sailboat passes on our left,
Its white sail puffed with air.
I wave, but Teta does not turn.
She has a faraway stare.

She watches the far island grow,
Its hills of green and brown.
Her hand is warm upon my hand.
Is she happy or down?

Then, near the shore, she lifts her arm
Toward a house of white.
Her smile grows wide. Her eyes grow wet.
I squeeze her fingers tight.

I do not know what Teta sees.
She doesn't say a word.
But something in her quiet smile
Says more than I have heard.

Version 2: A Scene from a Play

CAST OF CHARACTERS
YUSUF, a ten-year-old boy on his first ferry ride
TETA, his grandmother
A DECKHAND, who works on the ferry

(The deck of a small ferry on a windy morning. YUSUF and TETA stand at the rail. Gulls cry overhead. In the distance, a green island rises from the sea.)
YUSUF: (pointing up) Teta, look! That gull almost landed on my hood!
TETA: (gazing at the island, not turning) Mm.
YUSUF: And there's a sailboat! Its sail is puffed up like a pillow.
TETA: (softly) Yes, very nice.
(YUSUF studies her face. He lowers his arm.)
YUSUF: Are you seasick? You've hardly said a word since we left.
TETA: I'm not sick, habibi. I'm remembering.
YUSUF: Remembering what?
(The DECKHAND walks past, coiling a rope.)
DECKHAND: Ten minutes to Cedar Island, folks!
YUSUF: (to the DECKHAND) Is Cedar Island big?
DECKHAND: (smiling) Big enough to get lost in. Small enough that everyone knows your name.
TETA: (quietly) Everyone used to know mine.
TETA: (pointing toward the shore) Do you see the white house on the hill? The one with the blue door?
YUSUF: (squinting) Next to the big tree?
TETA: I grew up in that house. I left the island when I was your age.
YUSUF: (surprised) You never told me that!
TETA: (wiping her eyes and smiling) I'm telling you now. Today, I wanted you to see it with me.
YUSUF: (taking her hand) Can we knock on the blue door?
TETA: (laughing) Maybe. First, let's see if my old tree is still standing.

1. How does the play show that Teta is lost in thought, without a narrator?

   through a stanza that Yusuf reads aloud

   through the list of characters at the top

   through stage directions and her short answers

   through rhyming words at the ends of lines

2. The poem's last stanza says Yusuf does not know what Teta sees. Why does the poem leave this unanswered?

   Poems are not able to include anyone's words.

   It keeps the reader inside Yusuf's view, wondering with him.

   The poet forgot to include the white house.

   Teta does not know what she sees either.

3. What does the deckhand's call, "Ten minutes to Cedar Island," add to the scene?

It explains why Teta is so quiet.

It shows the ferry is nearly at the island.

It shows that the ferry has turned back.

It tells the name of Teta's house.

4. What does the opening stage direction of the play tell the reader?

what Teta says about the island

what Yusuf is thinking about his grandmother

where the scene is and what the weather is like

who the deckhand is and where the ferry is going

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

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