Story Structure

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

Read the text. Circle the line or stage direction the question asks about.

READ THIS FIRST

The Fish Lantern

CAST OF CHARACTERS
MEI LIN, a ten-year-old girl who loves to make things
GRANDPA WEI, her grandfather, a patient artist
DANIEL, Mei Lin's best friend from next door

SCENE 1
(GRANDPA WEI's kitchen, the night before the Lantern Festival. Red paper, glue and thin bamboo sticks cover the table. MEI LIN holds up a finished lantern shaped like a fish.)
MEI LIN: Look, Grandpa! The fins finally stay on.
GRANDPA WEI: (putting on his glasses) Beautiful. The scales look almost real.
MEI LIN: Tomorrow everyone at the park will see it glow.
GRANDPA WEI: Paper is delicate, Mei Lin. Carry it with care.
MEI LIN: (laughing) I will hold it like a baby bird.
(DANIEL knocks and pokes his head through the doorway.)
DANIEL: Is the fish done? Can I see?
MEI LIN: (proudly turning it around) Ta-da!
DANIEL: Whoa. Mine is just a plain circle.

SCENE 2
(The park, the next evening. Strings of lights hang between the trees. People hold glowing lanterns. A light rain begins to fall.)
DANIEL: (looking up) Uh-oh. Is that rain?
MEI LIN: (pulling the fish close) Not now! Not tonight!
(A raindrop lands on the lantern. The wet paper splits along one side. MEI LIN stares at the tear and goes quiet.)
DANIEL: Maybe nobody will notice.
MEI LIN: (her voice shaking) Everyone will notice. It looks ruined.
GRANDPA WEI: (stepping under the snack tent) Bring it here, out of the rain.
(GRANDPA WEI pulls a folded square of gold paper from his coat pocket. He cuts out a circle with small scissors.)
MEI LIN: What are you making?
GRANDPA WEI: A moon for your fish to swim past. (He presses the gold circle over the tear.) There. Now the tear is part of the picture.
DANIEL: (grinning) It looks even better than before.
MEI LIN: (slowly smiling, lifting the lantern high) A fish swimming under the moon. I like it.
(The rain stops. MEI LIN and DANIEL carry their lanterns into the crowd.)

1. Which stage direction shows that Mei Lin is upset before she says a word about it?
   MEI LIN holds up a finished lantern shaped like a fish.
   Strings of lights hang between the trees.
   MEI LIN stares at the tear and goes quiet.
   DANIEL knocks and pokes his head through the doorway.

2. Which line of dialogue shows how Mei Lin feels at the end?
"Everyone will notice. It looks ruined."
"A fish swimming under the moon. I like it."
"Look, Grandpa! The fins finally stay on."
"Not now! Not tonight!"

3. Which stage direction shows that Grandpa Wei is fixing the lantern?
(putting on his glasses)
(A raindrop lands on the lantern. The wet paper splits along one side.)
(stepping under the snack tent)
(He presses the gold circle over the tear.)

4. Which line of dialogue shows that Daniel thinks his own lantern is plain?
"Is the fish done? Can I see?"
"It looks even better than before."
"Maybe nobody will notice."
"Whoa. Mine is just a plain circle."

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

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