Narrator Point of View

Grade 5 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer.

READ THIS FIRST

Opening Night: Two Tellings

Ji-woo's Telling

Opening night of The Clever Princess was a disaster, and I know because I saw all of it. As stage manager, I wore black, carried a clipboard, and stood in the dark beside the curtain. My job was to make sure every prop, light and actor was in the right place at the right time. I had a checklist with forty-two items on it, and I had practiced every cue for three weeks. Within ten minutes, nothing was.

First, the princess's crown went missing. Lucia was supposed to wear it in the opening scene, and her head was bare. I searched three boxes while the audience waited through what felt like an hour. Finally, I found the crown on the piano bench. My hands were shaking so badly that I nearly dropped it. Then the curtain rope slipped through my hands, and the curtain closed halfway during the forest scene. I yanked it open again, but everyone must have noticed. Even the painted forest wobbled when someone bumped it. In the final scene, Marcus forgot his line about the golden key. He stood frozen for three whole seconds before I whispered it from the side.

When the lights came up, the audience clapped, but I'm sure they were just being polite. Lucia hugged me afterward and said it was the best night of her life, but she was only being kind too. I went home and crossed out half my checklist in angry red marker.

Grandpa's Telling

Last night I watched my granddaughter's school play, The Clever Princess, and I enjoyed every minute. The actors spoke clearly, the painted forest looked real, and the costumes were as bright as a market on festival day.

Near the beginning, there was a short pause while the princess waited offstage. I used the time to read the program and find Ji-woo's name: Stage Manager. When the princess finally appeared, her golden crown sparkled under the lights. Later, the curtain swayed in the middle of the forest scene, which I took for a gust of wind in the story. Near the end, one boy paused before his speech about a golden key. He took a breath, then spoke his line so strongly that the whole room went quiet to listen.

What I noticed most was a small figure in black moving at the edge of the stage. Every time something was needed, that figure was already there. Without her, I think the play would have fallen apart. Afterward, I bought a paper cup of lemonade in the hallway and listened to the parents talking. Everyone was saying the same thing: that was the best school play in years. I am old, and I have seen many plays, but few with so much heart. When I told Ji-woo this, she looked at me as if I had spoken another language.

1. Ji-woo says she knows the night was a disaster "because I saw all of it." How does her job explain her view?
   - She sat in the audience and watched the whole play clearly.
   - She was an actor who forgot her own lines.
   - She saw every backstage problem, so the mistakes seemed huge to her.
   - She arrived late and saw only the final scene.

2. Why did Grandpa think the pause near the beginning was not a problem?
   - He did not know the crown was missing.
   - Lucia told him the pause was planned.
   - He saw Ji-woo find the crown quickly.
   - He arrived after the pause had ended.

3. Ji-woo says the audience waited "through what felt like an hour." What does Grandpa's telling suggest about that wait?
   - It was short enough for him to read the program.
   - It really did last about an hour.
   - It made the audience restless and noisy.
   - It happened at the end of the play.

4. How do the two narrators explain the curtain problem differently?
   - Ji-woo blames the slipping rope; Grandpa thinks it was part of the story.
   - Ji-woo blames Marcus; Grandpa blames the wind.
   - Both say the curtain closed during the final scene.
   - Ji-woo thinks it was part of the story; Grandpa blames the rope.

5. How does each narrator describe Marcus's pause?
   - Both say Marcus forgot his line and the play stopped.
   - Ji-woo calls it a frozen moment; Grandpa says it made the line more powerful.
   - Ji-woo says it was planned; Grandpa says Marcus looked frightened.
   - Ji-woo never mentions the pause; Grandpa calls it a mistake.

6. Which line from Grandpa's telling most directly argues against Ji-woo's belief that the audience was "just being polite"?
   - The curtain swayed in the middle of the forest scene.
   - I told Ji-woo this.
   - Everyone was saying the same thing: that was the best school play in years.
   - I used the time to read the program.

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Answer Key - Grade 5 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

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