The repaired radio

Fiction and character | original narrative

Name _____ Date _____

Mara had promised that the old radio would play before her father returned. By dusk, screws lay across the kitchen towel like pieces of a map she could no longer read. When his key turned, she slid the towel beneath a newspaper. He set his bag beside it and asked whether the evening news had begun. Mara reached for her phone. Her father lifted the paper, looked at the open case, and pulled a chair to the table. He placed one screw on the wood between them. "Where did this one go?" he asked. She moved the phone aside.

1. Infer how Mara's expectation of her father changes.

2. Analyze how one action at the end develops that change.

3. Explain an alternative reading that the text leaves open.

Use evidence and show the relationships in your reasoning. Additional paper is permitted.

First thaw

Poetry and figurative language | original poem

Name _____ Date _____

Under the loading dock
the last ice keeps its ledger.
Boots cross the morning gravel.
Water adds a quiet line.
I bring the shovel out,
then leave it by the door.
What held the yard all winter
is loosening without me.

1. Develop a defensible central idea using two details.

2. Analyze the effect of describing ice as keeping a ledger.

3. Explain how the final two lines complicate the speaker's role.

Use evidence and show the relationships in your reasoning. Additional paper is permitted.

Who counts as a reader?

Rhetoric and perspective | original editorial

Name _____ Date _____

Our library counts every book that crosses its desk. It cannot count the page a reader returns to after a difficult day. A circulation total tells us something useful, but it should not become our definition of reading. Before we reduce the quiet room to make space for more checkout stations, ask the people who stay there. The busiest place is not always the place doing the most visible work.

1. Identify the writer's position on the proposed change.

2. Explain the effect of contrasting countable activity with private reading.

3. Identify evidence the argument would need to compare the proposed uses of space.

Use evidence and show the relationships in your reasoning. Additional paper is permitted.

Should the lab remain open after school?

Source-based argument | constructed argument source set

Name _____ Date _____

Source A, student survey: 60 of 100 respondents would attend a later lab at least once a week. Only 100 of 400 students responded. Source B, attendance log: current sessions average 18 students for 24 seats. Source C, staffing note: one later session costs $160 and requires a trained supervisor. Source D, student statement: students with afternoon jobs prefer an early session. These four sources are constructed for argument practice.

1. Make a qualified recommendation using at least three sources.

2. Address a competing need with evidence.

3. Identify one limitation that should shape the recommendation.

Use evidence and show the relationships in your reasoning. Additional paper is permitted.

The title changes the reading

Structure and ambiguity | original microfiction

Name _____ Date _____

Title: Inventory. At closing, Leon counted six chairs, three lamps, and one cracked bowl. The shop would open under a different name on Monday. He wrote each item on the form, then added the pencil he had been holding all evening. There was no line for the sound his mother made when the bell above the door rang.

1. Explain a possible relationship between the title and the final sentence.

2. Trace how the list structure develops meaning.

3. Support a second possible interpretation without inventing information.

Use evidence and show the relationships in your reasoning. Additional paper is permitted.

A chart needs a sentence

Evidence and information | constructed data and competing claims

Name _____ Date _____

A school pilots a tool-lending shelf. Each month has 100 eligible borrowers. The records below count loans and late returns. Student A argues participation grew. Student B argues reliability worsened.

Month	Loans	Late returns
1	20	4
2	40	6

1. Evaluate A's claim using the appropriate comparison.

2. Evaluate B's claim using both counts and rates.

3. Write a two-sentence conclusion that distinguishes the two outcomes.

Use evidence and show the relationships in your reasoning. Additional paper is permitted.