

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Analyze Visuals

Read the short story and answer each question.



The Sidewalk Stars

Every night, Luma lit the lanterns that floated across the lake. The townspeople said the lanterns carried wishes to the stars. Luma didn't know if that was true, but she lit them anyway.

Her little boat bobbed gently as she struck each match. Orange light bloomed like fireflowers on the water. She hummed an old melody her grandmother once sang—soft, steady, sweet.

One night, dark clouds swallowed the moon. A cold wind hissed across the water, and her matches wouldn't light. One by one, the lanterns stayed dim.

Luma pulled her scarf tight. Her fingers trembled. She thought of the villagers watching from their windows, waiting for the lights to rise.

Then she saw a single glow—tiny, golden. A boy in a distant canoe held up a lantern, already burning. Another boat appeared with two more. Slowly, lights flickered across the lake.

Luma smiled. She lit her last match and raised her lantern high. The lake shimmered.

The stars didn't need wishes to shine. But people sometimes did.



Name: _____

The Sidewalk Stars

1. How could a wordless illustration of the final scene enhance the meaning of the story?

- A. It would show that Levi's drawings inspired others, deepening the theme of community and healing.
- B. It would explain why chalk art is a bad idea when it rains.
- C. It would confuse the reader by leaving too many questions unanswered.
- D. It would show that Levi no longer wants to draw stars.

2. What tone might a visual of Levi kneeling alone during the storm convey?

- A. Hopeful and proud
- B. Lonely but determined
- C. Joyful and excited
- D. Uninterested and confused

3. Fill in the blank:

Levi believed chalk could hold _____.

4. How would an illustration of the galaxy sidewalk change how the reader feels about the ending?

5. Why is it powerful that the final image includes Malia joining in?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: T

Lexile Level: 900L-1050L

Grade Level: 5th Grade, Beginning of the Year

Genre: Contemporary Realistic Fiction

Introducing the Text

“This story includes a powerful ending that could be beautifully shown in a wordless image. As you read, think about how chalk drawings, rain, and sidewalk space are used to represent emotion. Imagine how a picture might change or deepen your understanding of the final moment.”

Vocabulary: chalk, galaxy, cluster, nebula, determined

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What emotions do you think artists can show without using any words?
 2. Have you ever seen sidewalk chalk drawings that told a story or showed a message?
 3. How do illustrations sometimes say more than text alone?
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do Levi’s stars represent to him?
 2. Why does Malia respond the way she does before the rain?
 3. How do the rain and the morning after shift the tone?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. What message does the final scene communicate about grief and connection?
 2. How would a wordless illustration of the ending change or strengthen that message?
 3. Why might the author have chosen to show healing through drawing?
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Activity Idea

Have students use chalk or pastels to design their own symbolic sidewalk image—something that represents a feeling or memory. Then, write a few lines explaining what the visual would communicate if it were part of a story without words.

