

READING EVIDENCE LAB

QUOTING ACCURATE EVIDENCE

Read closely. Select precisely. Explain how the evidence proves your thinking.



LEARNING TARGET

I can quote accurately from a text when explaining what it says directly and when making an inference.

MINI LESSON The Quote + Explain Method

Strong evidence answers the question and comes directly from the text. A quotation should be exact, brief, and followed by an explanation of how it supports your answer.

1



ANSWER State your answer or inference in your own words.

2



INTRODUCE Use a signal phrase: *The text states, The author explains, or In paragraph ____, ...*

3



QUOTE Copy only the most useful words exactly and place quotation marks around them.

4



EXPLAIN Tell how the quoted words prove your answer. Never leave a quotation standing alone.

WORKED EXAMPLE

QUESTION What can the reader infer about Lena when the storm begins?

Answer + evidence: Lena stays calm under pressure. In paragraph 6, the author writes, "Lena folded the map and gave each volunteer a job."

This shows that she responds to danger by organizing a plan instead of panicking. ★

✓ ACCURACY CHECK

- ☐ Did you copy the words exactly?
- ☐ Did you use quotation marks?
- ☐ Did you explain how the quotation proves the answer?



STRONG READERS USE STRONG EVIDENCE!

TODAY'S GOALS

- ☐ Quote accurately.
- ☐ Explain clearly.
- ☐ Prove my thinking!



STRATEGY REMINDERS

“ Keep quotes short and exact.

? Choose evidence that answers the question.

⚙ Explain how the evidence connects to your answer.

EVIDENCE ISN'T JUST FOUND. IT'S CHOSEN.

READ THE PASSAGE *The Signal on Harbor Hill • Part 1*

READING DIRECTIONS Numbered paragraphs make evidence easy to locate. As you read, underline moments that reveal a character's motivation, decisions, or change.

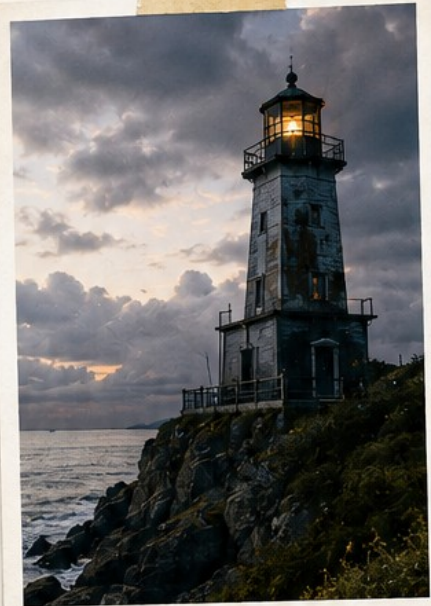


Tip: Look for clues about what the character thinks, feels, and decides.

THE SIGNAL ON HARBOR HILL

An original realistic-fiction passage

- 1** By three o'clock, the annual Harbor Day celebration had filled the waterfront with music, food stands, and visitors. Maya Chen should have been helping her father at the marine-rescue booth, but she kept glancing toward Harbor Hill. At its summit stood an old signal tower that had once guided fishing boats through fog. The tower had been closed for years, yet that afternoon a pale light flashed behind its dusty windows.
- 2** Maya pointed it out to her best friend, Andre. "Probably sunlight bouncing off the glass," he said, though the sky had turned the color of wet cement. Maya watched again. Three quick flashes appeared, followed by a long pause. Her grandfather had taught her the harbor's emergency signal: three short flashes meant trouble.
- 3** At the rescue booth, Maya told her father what she had seen. He studied the hill, then checked the weather radio. A fast-moving storm had changed direction and was now heading toward the harbor. "The tower has no power," he said. "And the trail is closed because last week's rain damaged the footbridge." He called the park office, but the line was busy.
- 4** Another set of flashes blinked from the tower. Maya remembered seeing two park volunteers carry boxes toward the hill that morning. One of them, Mr. Alvarez, walked with a cane. If the bridge had worsened, they might be trapped above the creek. "Someone needs to check," Maya said.
- 5** Her father shook his head. "Not alone, and not on a damaged trail." He handed her a bright orange safety vest. "Stay here and help me prepare the booth. I will contact the harbor patrol." Maya wanted to argue, but she knew his rule was reasonable. Racing uphill without a plan could create another emergency.
- 6** Maya studied the display map beside the booth. A dotted line showed an older service road that curved behind the hill and avoided the footbridge. The road was longer, but the park maintenance crew used it for equipment. She showed the route to her father and suggested that the patrol take it. He immediately radioed the information.



The old signal tower on Harbor Hill

PAUSE & NOTICE

Which quotation best shows that Maya is careful as well as determined?

Mark it now. ☞

- | | |
|----------|---|
| A | "Three quick flashes appeared, followed by a long pause." (paragraph 2) |
| B | "Someone needs to check," Maya said. (paragraph 4) |
| C | "Not alone, and not on a damaged trail." (paragraph 5) |
| D | "She showed the route to her father and suggested that the patrol take it." (paragraph 6) |

THINK LIKE A READER

☒ Maya notices details.



☒ She considers safety and rules.



☒ She plans a smart solution.



READ THE PASSAGE *The Signal on Harbor Hill • Part 2*

- 7** Rain began tapping the tents. The harbor patrol truck started toward the service road, but a fallen branch blocked the entrance. The officers jumped out to move it. Maya's father began securing ropes and emergency blankets, while Andre directed visitors away from the water. Everyone had a task except Maya.
- 8** Then Maya noticed the rescue booth's portable signal lamp. Its beam was powerful enough to reach the hill. She switched it on and sent three short flashes toward the tower. A moment later, the tower answered with one long flash. Maya searched the signal card attached to the lamp: one long flash meant message received.
- 9** Using the card, Maya sent a question: SAFE? The response came slowly: TWO HERE. BRIDGE OUT. ONE HURT. Maya wrote each message on a clipboard and handed it to the patrol captain. The injured volunteer was not in immediate danger, but the team would need a stretcher and a medical kit.
- 10** Because Maya relayed exact information, the officers changed what they carried before hiking up the service road. Her father added dry blankets and a radio. Andre found the event nurse, who joined the team. Within twenty minutes, they reached the tower.
- 11** The storm passed as quickly as it had arrived. From the waterfront, Maya saw four short flashes—the signal for all clear. She released a breath she had not realized she was holding. Later, Mr. Alvarez returned with his ankle wrapped. He explained that the volunteers had climbed the tower after the bridge collapsed behind them. Their phone had no signal, so they used a small battery lantern.
- 12** "You saw the light, but more importantly, you paid attention to what it meant," Mr. Alvarez told Maya. Her father nodded. "And you found a safe way to help. Courage isn't always running toward danger. Sometimes it is stopping, thinking, and taking the next right step."



**“STRONG READERS
FIND THE EVIDENCE,
THEN LET IT SPEAK
FOR THEM.”**

7-9 TEXT EVIDENCE CHALLENGE

For each question below:

- ☒ Write your answer in your own words.
- ☒ Quote the most accurate evidence.
- ☒ Explain how the evidence proves your answer.



1 Why did Maya send a question to the tower?

Answer: _____

Quote: " _____ "

Explain: _____

2 What message did the tower send back to Maya?

Answer: _____

Quote: " _____ "

Explain: _____

3 How did Maya's actions help the rescue team?

Answer: _____

Quote: " _____ "

Explain: _____



4 What lesson does Maya learn by the end of the story?

Answer: _____

Quote: " _____ "

Explain: _____



REFLECTION TIME



What does this story teach you about making smart decisions in a crisis?

**EVIDENCE + EXPLANATION
= POWERFUL THINKING**





FOCUS QUESTION

What does the author want readers to learn about courage and decision-making?

Name: _____

Date: _____

5 KEY EVIDENCE MATCH

Match each idea to the quotation that best supports it.
Write the letter in the box.

☐

1 Maya notices details that others might miss.

A

"Maya studied the display map beside the booth. A dotted line showed an older service road that curved behind the hill and avoided the footbridge."
(paragraph 6)

☐

2 Maya uses a plan instead of acting impulsively.

B

"You saw the light, but more importantly, you paid attention to what it meant."
(paragraph 12)

☐

3 Maya communicates clearly to gather information.

C

"Using the card, Maya sent a question: SAFE?"
(paragraph 9)

☐

4 Maya's actions help the rescue team prepare.

D

"Because Maya relayed exact information, the officers changed what they carried before hiking up the service road."
(paragraph 10)

☐

5 The story's message about courage is revealed.

E

"Courage isn't always running toward danger. Sometimes it is stopping, thinking, and taking the next right step."
(paragraph 12)

6 WORD WORK

Use context clues to define the word.
Write your best definition and a synonym.

WORD: impulsively (paragraph 5)

DEFINITION:

SYNONYM:

7 AUTHOR'S PURPOSE

Why do you think the author wrote this story?
Support your thinking with one quotation.

Purpose (check one):

☐ to entertain

☐ to inform

☐ to persuade

Quote: "_____"

Explanation:

8 CHOOSE YOUR CHALLENGE

Pick ONE task. Answer in complete sentences.



A. CHARACTER FOCUS

What character trait does Maya show most in this story? Give two quotations that support your answer.

Trait: _____

Quote 1: "_____"

Quote 2: "_____"



B. CAUSE & EFFECT

What would likely have happened if Maya had ignored the light on the tower? Use evidence from the text to explain.

Answer: _____



C. REAL WORLD CONNECTION

Think of a time you helped solve a problem by staying calm and thinking carefully. What did you do?

My experience: _____

9 QUICK WRITE

Write 4–6 sentences in response to the focus question.
Use at least one quotation from the text.

10 REFLECTION



What is one new strategy you used today to find strong evidence?



What part of the story helped you most understand the message? Why?



What is one question you still have about the story?



STRONG READERS DON'T JUST GUESS — WE PROVE IT!