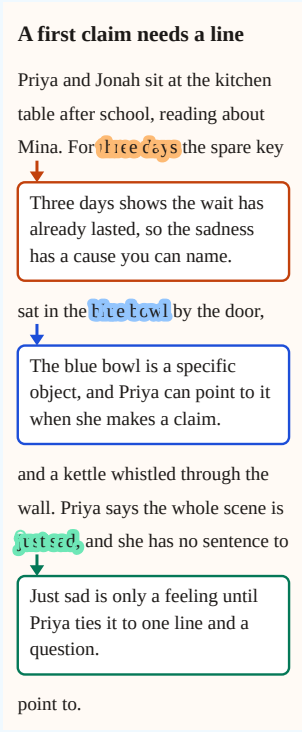
English Language Arts 10-1

## Unit 1: Explore thoughts and experiences

# Tentative understandings

# A first reaction to a scene

- Priya and Jonah sit at the kitchen table after school, reading about Mina. For three days the spare key sat in the blue bowl by the door, and a kettle whistled through the wall. Priya says the whole scene is just sad, and she has no sentence to point to.
- Three days shows the wait has already lasted, so the sadness has a cause you can name.
- The blue bowl is a specific object, and Priya can point to it when she makes a claim.
- Just sad is only a feeling until Priya ties it to one line and a question.



## Claims with open questions

- A tentative understanding says what the scene might mean and which line suggested it.
- Jonah's question holds off prejudgement, so the next line can still change the claim.
- When Jonah talks about the kettle, Priya hears a detail her first reading missed.

# Key terms

### tentative understanding

A first interpretation that stays open because a question is still attached to a line or detail.

### interpretation

A reasoned account of what a text is doing, tied to lines, images, or details from that text.

### prejudgement

A decision about meaning made before the reader has looked closely at the wording.

## Parts of a tentative reading

- Claim box: write one sentence about what Mina seems to be doing.
- Line box: copy the sentence that made you say that.
- Question box: write what you still need the next sentence to show.

## Annotated example

- Priya and Jonah sit at the kitchen table after school. For three days the spare key sat in the blue bowl by the door, and a kettle whistled through the wall. Priya says the whole scene is just sad.
- Claim: Mina has been waiting, because three days means the key has stayed in the bowl longer than one afternoon.
- Line: the spare key sat in the blue bowl by the door. Question: would an empty bowl the next morning mean she waited too long?

## Practice with a new line

- Mina stands at the sink while a kettle whistles in the next apartment. She keeps one hand on the blue bowl and leaves the key where it is. Jonah asks what the whistle adds.
- Use the same move: write a claim about the whistle, quote the line that supports it, and add one question a second reading could answer.

## Review

- After the club meeting, the hallway light stayed on and the blue bowl of keys sat on the office desk. Everyone else had gone down the stairwell. Priya still stood by the door.
- Write a claim, the wording you use, and a question that could change the claim.