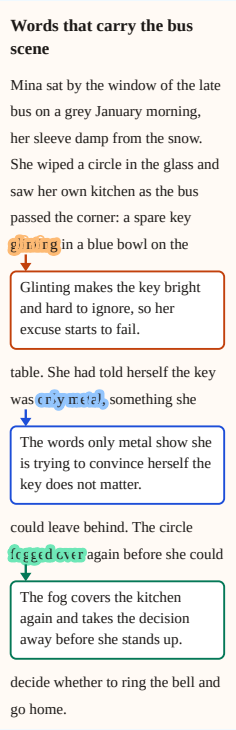
English Language Arts 10-1

Unit 2: Comprehend and respond to texts

Close reading and paraphrase

A short passage for close reading

- Mina sat by the window of the late bus on a grey January morning, her sleeve damp from the snow. She wiped a circle in the glass and saw her own kitchen as the bus passed the corner: a spare key glinting in a blue bowl on the table. She had told herself the key was only metal, something she could leave behind. The circle fogged over again before she could decide whether to ring the bell and go home.
- Glinting makes the key bright and hard to ignore, so her excuse starts to fail.
- The words only metal show she is trying to convince herself the key is unimportant.
- The fog covers the kitchen again and takes the decision away before she stands up.



From annotation to paraphrase

- A question, a prediction, and a note on diction are tools for staying with the sentences.
- Connotation is the extra feeling in a word, beyond its dictionary meaning. Only tries to make the key sound unimportant.
- The controlling idea is the main understanding the details build. A paraphrase says that idea in your own words and keeps one supporting detail.
- Subtext is a meaning suggested under the events. The unfinished decision about the bell suggests Mina is still tied to that kitchen.

Key terms

controlling idea

The main understanding a passage is building, the point the details work together to support.

connotation

The feeling or association a word carries beyond its plain dictionary meaning.

subtext

A meaning suggested underneath the stated events, available through detail and tone.

Annotation frame

- Ask a question the sentences can face: why does Mina call the key only metal?
- Predict only what the passage will let you check. Here, you can predict she stays on the bus because the fog returns before she rings the bell.
- The words only metal show she is trying to convince herself the key is unimportant.
- Glinting makes the key bright and hard to ignore, so the excuse starts to fail when the bus passes her kitchen.

Worked paraphrase

- Worked move on the bus passage: mark the word, say its effect in a full sentence, then paraphrase.
- The words only metal show she is trying to convince herself the key is unimportant.
- Glinting makes the key bright and hard to ignore, so that excuse fails as the kitchen goes past the window.
- Paraphrase: Mina wants the spare key to feel unimportant, but the blue bowl and the fogged circle show she is still tied to that kitchen.

Paraphrase practice

- Jordan stood alone in the choir room after rehearsal, beside the piano. The black folder lay open, and a name was written inside in pencil. Jordan shut the cover, then opened it again. The pencil line looked freshly pressed, as if someone had just left.
- Use the same move: mark one word, say its effect in a full sentence, and paraphrase the controlling idea with one detail from the room.

Review

- The new passage below is the text for this check. Work from these sentences.
- Amira stood at the empty community rink after the other skaters had gone. One floodlight stayed on. Her skates knocked together in her bag, and she told the dark boards she was fine. The light made a small stage of the ice.
- Paraphrase the controlling idea in your own words and name one supporting detail.