YEAR 7 · READING COMPREHENSION

Character and Setting Description Exercise

Name _____ **Date** _____

Read both descriptions carefully. Then answer the questions in full sentences, using short quotations or details from the passages as evidence.

1 Read the descriptions

PASSAGE A · THE STATION

By the time Mara reached the old station, rain had polished the rails until they shone like black glass. The platform lamps blinked in the mist, each one making a small, uncertain island of light. Somewhere beyond the signal box, a loose sign clanged against a post. Mara tightened her grip on the paper timetable. She had been here before, but never after dark. The last train was due in three minutes; she checked the empty track, then the station clock, then the track again. A gust pushed cold rain beneath her collar. Still, when a faint yellow glow appeared around the bend, she stepped to the platform edge and lifted one hand. Her voice, when she called, was steadier than her fingers.

PASSAGE B · THE GREENHOUSE

At the back of the school garden, Jonah eased open the greenhouse door. Warm, damp air curled around him, carrying the sharp smell of tomato leaves and wet soil. Rain tapped the glass roof, but inside, droplets clung to the ferns like tiny beads. A cracked pane rattled whenever the wind pressed against it. Jonah set down his bag and noticed a seedling bent beneath a fallen pot. He lifted the pot carefully, brushing soil from the plant's pale stem with one finger. The bell rang across the playground. For a moment he looked towards the doors, where other pupils were already hurrying inside. Then he found a length of twine, tied the seedling to a cane and only afterwards ran for his lesson.

2 Analyse the writing

1. What do Mara's repeated actions suggest about how she feels? Support your idea with one detail from Passage A.

2. Choose one image or sound in Passage A. How does it help create the atmosphere at the station?

3. Which details make the greenhouse feel alive and close? Explain the effect of one sensory detail in Passage B.

4. What do Jonah's actions towards the seedling suggest about his character? Use evidence from the passage.

5. Compare the atmosphere in the station and the greenhouse. Explain how one word or phrase from each passage creates a contrast.