

Name:

Fiction: Characters, Setting, Plot – Q2:7

Date:

As you answer this week's questions, highlight your evidence in the text.

Turning On the Lights

The day the electric lines came to the farm was the most exciting day Joseph could remember. Pa said it was almost as exciting as the day the Great War ended in 1919, but Joseph had not been born then.

"Sure is a great thing, this **newfangled** electricity," Pa said. Joseph and his brothers sat on the fence and watched the electric workers putting in the lines. The poles had been laid the week before, but rain had delayed the lines. They should have been working on their homework while it was still daylight, but today was different.

"Just this once, you boys can wait until later. It isn't every day we get electricity hooked up," Pa said.

"You boys know how electricity works?" one of the men asked Joseph and his brothers. "This top line will be live. If it ever breaks in a storm, never touch it. You get your kite stuck here, you leave it alone."

"Yes, sir," said Joseph's older brother Tom. "It would throw sparks, wouldn't it?"

"Yes. You have to watch out things don't catch fire if things spark," the man said thoughtfully. "But electricity is safe. Much safer than the candles and kerosene lamps and coal fires you folks have been using. It is quiet and clean, because there is no smoke with electricity. Your ma can get one of those electric toasters. You'll love that."

"I want an electric sewing machine like my sister in town has," said Ma. "But that'll take a lot of saving."

"Main thing we'll have is those electric lights. No more taking a candle or a kerosene lantern to see in the evening," said Pa. "You kids will be able to study all night long. Maybe you'll finally learn your multiplication tables, Joseph."

"Yeah," said Joseph's little brother Sam. "No more saying you can't see the numbers."

Joseph frowned. He had not thought about electricity making it possible for homework to be done at night.

That evening, for the first time, Pa switched on the electricity, and the bulb hanging from the kitchen ceiling blazed to light. It was so bright Ma could see a cobweb in the corner she never knew was there. She ran for her broom.

"Never knew things looked like this," said Pa.

Everything looked like it needed a good scrub, marked with smoke from years of the wood stove. It was so bright it almost hurt your eyes, Joseph thought.

Tom picked up a book and opened it. "Look how clear the pages are!" he shouted. "Look at this!"

"You boys can do your homework with no problems now," said Pa. "I expect you all to make A's. Look at those multiplication tables, Joseph."

On the bright white page, the black numbers jumped out clear and clean. Joseph nodded.

"I think this will help Pa," said Joseph. With the new electric light, he had no more excuses.



Monday	Tuesday
<p>Describe the setting of this story?</p> <hr/>	<p>Which details from the text helped you know the story takes place in the past?</p> <hr/>
<p>Who is the main character in this story?</p> <hr/>	<p>According to the text, what was different about today?</p> <hr/>
<p>What would be another good title for this story?</p> <hr/>	<p>What should Joseph and his brother be doing instead of watching the workers?</p> <hr/>
<p>What does the word newfangled mean in the story?</p> <hr/>	<p>Why do you think Joseph normally does his homework during daylight hours?</p> <hr/>
Wednesday	Thursday
<p>According to the text, what should Joseph do if he gets something stuck in the lines?</p> <hr/>	<p>“I expect you all to make A’s” What does the above quote tell us about Pa?</p> <hr/>
<p>How might Joseph’s family’s life get easier, now that they have electricity?</p> <hr/>	<p>She ran for her broom. What does this action tell you about Ma?</p> <hr/>
<p>Before there was electricity, what problem did Joseph have with learning multiplication?</p> <hr/>	<p>How does Joseph feel about the fact that homework is now possible to do at night?</p> <hr/>
<p>How did electricity help solve Joseph’s problem?</p> <hr/>	<p>What clue from the text helped you answer the question above?</p> <hr/>

More of My Thinking

Monday	Tuesday
Wednesday	Thursday

My Progress

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
____ out of 4 correct I need more help with...	____ out of 4 correct I need more help with...	____ out of 4 correct I need more help with...	____ out of 4 correct I need more help with...

Answer Key - Fiction: Characters, Setting, Plot – Q2:7

Monday	Tuesday
<p>Describe the setting of this story?</p> <p>A farm in the early 1900's</p>	<p>Which details from the text helped you know the story takes place in the past?</p> <p>Accept all reasonable answers. They are just getting electricity and they mentioned the Great War.</p>
<p>Who is the main character in this story?</p> <p>Joseph</p>	<p>According to the text, what was different about today?</p> <p>They were getting electricity. Also, they would have light at night.</p>
<p>What would be another good title for this story?</p> <p>Accept all reasonable answers.</p>	<p>What should Joseph and his brother be doing instead of watching the workers?</p> <p>Their homework</p>
<p>What does the word newfangled mean in the story?</p> <p>something new</p>	<p>Why do you think Joseph normally does his homework during daylight hours?</p> <p>Because that is when he can still see.</p>
Wednesday	Thursday
<p>According to the text, what should Joseph do if he gets something stuck in the lines?</p> <p>Leave it alone.</p>	<p>"I expect you all to make A's" What does the above quote tell us about Pa?</p> <p>He values education. He wants his kids to do well in school.</p>
<p>How might Joseph's family's life get easier, now that they have electricity?</p> <p>They can get electric machines to make their lives easier (toaster, sewing machine)</p>	<p>She ran for her broom. What does this action tell you about Ma?</p> <p>Ma wants the house to be clean.</p>
<p>Before there was electricity, what problem did Joseph have with learning multiplication?</p> <p>He had a hard time seeing the numbers.</p>	<p>How does Joseph feel about the fact that homework is now possible to do at night?</p> <p>He is not happy.</p>
<p>How did electricity help solve Joseph's problem?</p> <p>The numbers were now clear and clean.</p>	<p>What clue from the text helped you answer the question above?</p> <p>"Joseph frowned"</p>