

Name _____



Meaning In Objects

Directions: Read the passage carefully, paying attention to objects, images, or repeated details. Identify one possible **symbol or motif** (an object, detail, or recurring image that represents a deeper idea). Explain what the symbol or motif might mean and how it connects to the character's experience or the passage's larger message. Answer the questions that follow, citing specific evidence from the text.

Passage (Adapted, Original)

The candle burned low on the windowsill, its flame bending with every draft. Mara sat quietly, staring at the little light as the room around her sank deeper into shadow. She held a letter in her lap, unopened, its seal unbroken though she had turned it over in her hands a dozen times. Outside, the night pressed close, heavy and still, while the candle sputtered, fighting to remain alive. At last, Mara leaned forward, shielding the flame with her hand, as though protecting it from being swallowed by the dark.

1. What object or detail in the passage could be read as a symbol?

2. What larger idea or feeling might this symbol represent?

3. How does the description of the candle reflect Mara's own inner struggle?

4. What message or theme might the author be suggesting through this symbol?
