

Meaning In Objects Answer Key

Question 1:

- *Answer:* The candle.
- *Evidence:* "candle burned low," "flame bending," "sputtered, fighting to remain alive."

Question 2:

- *Answer:* The candle could symbolize **hope, resilience, or fragile determination.**
- *Explanation:* Its struggle against the dark mirrors Mara's emotional state.

Question 3:

- *Answer:* Mara's hesitation with the letter and her action of shielding the flame suggest that she, like the candle, feels vulnerable but does not want to give up.
- *Evidence:* "shielding the flame with her hand" shows her desire to protect both the light and herself from being overcome by fear or uncertainty.

Question 4:

- *Answer:* The author may be suggesting that even in darkness or uncertainty, small acts of protection and courage can preserve hope.
- *Theme:* Light as hope in dark times.

Teacher Notes:

- Accept alternative interpretations if they are well supported. For example, students might say the candle represents "the truth waiting in the letter" or "the fragile nature of choices."
- Stress that symbols are not always single answers; what matters is connecting the symbol logically to text evidence.
- Extension: Have students write a short continuation of the passage, keeping the candle symbol alive but showing a shift (e.g., the candle goes out, or it grows stronger).