The Mark on the Doorframe

TEACHER ANSWER KEY · LITERARY ANALYSIS

Use the evidence below to guide discussion. Accept accurate explanations in students' own words.

1. B — It turns an unchanged measurement into a chosen act of connection before leaving.

The line is darker but no higher, and both know she has not grown. Asking for another mark gives the familiar ritual new emotional significance.

2. D — It suggests that an image preserves appearance without fully preserving the physical history of the marks.

The numbers appear on the screen, but the dents do not. That contrast distinguishes a record of the frame from the tangible traces of years of use.

3. A — He moves from preparing to paint over the marks to leaving the brush behind after sharing the ritual.

He begins with the agent's instruction and a loaded brush. After the new mark, he follows Mara out without painting, showing the pull of memory against the practical task.

4. C — It conveys affection and acceptance through a glance, a short question, and a nod instead of an explicit speech.

The father watches Mara, asks whether she is ready, and follows her. These small actions create a quiet, affectionate departure without naming every feeling.

> **Teaching note:** Accept interpretations supported by precise details. Keep the distinction between literal measurement and emotional significance, and avoid claiming the ending guarantees what happens to the frame later.
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> **Discussion:** Explain how the final mark can mean something different from the earlier marks even though it is at the same height. Connect the image to a character's choice.

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