Reading Homework 13.11-20.11

The Last Light on the Platform

The station was almost empty by the time the announcement echoed through the cold air. Most passengers had already gone, their footsteps fading into the darkness beyond the platform. Above the tracks, a single light buzzed and flickered, casting long shadows across the concrete.

Mara stood alone near the edge, her coat pulled tightly around her. She checked the departure board again, even though she already knew what it would say. The train was late — later than it had ever been before. Each passing minute made her chest tighten, yet she refused to move from her spot.

In her pocket, she felt the sharp edge of the folded note. She had read it so many times that the words were almost memorised, but still she traced the creases with her thumb. This journey mattered more than anyone else realised, and turning back was no longer an option.

A gust of wind rushed down the platform, rattling a discarded newspaper along the ground. At last, far down the track, a distant light appeared, growing steadily brighter. Mara straightened, her breath catching as she stepped forward, ready for whatever came next.

Questions

1. The author describes the platform light as *"buzzed and flickered"*.
   What does the word flickered **suggest** about the **atmosphere** at the station? **Explain** your answer.
2. **How** do we know that Mara is feeling **anxious** but **determined?**
   Use **evidence** from the text to support your answer.
3. **Why** do you think the author includes the **detail** of the folded note in Mara's pocket?
   What does this **suggest** about her **situation** and the **importance** of the **journey?**