Amon-Ra St. Brown's Overtime Catch Lights Detroit's Opening Chapter

NFL WEEK 1 · 2026 | GRADES 7–8 | NO @ DET · DET 31 – NO 30

NAME _____	DATE _____	SCORE _____ / 11

STORY Read the story, then answer the questions.

How the Game Went

Detroit opened with a 7-0 lead when Jahmyr Gibbs finished a drive featuring runs of 21 and 11 yards. After halftime, Derrick Barnes intercepted Tyler Shough, and Gibbs scored again before Jared Goff hit Amon-Ra St. Brown for a 19-yard touchdown and a 21-0 lead. New Orleans rallied behind scores by Kendre Miller, Devaughn Vele, and Juwan Johnson, tying the game with 1:07 left. A late Saints field-goal try missed, and St. Brown's 4-yard overtime catch gave Detroit a 31-30 win.

Standout Performers

Gibbs powered Detroit's attack with 156 rushing yards and two touchdowns, repeatedly finding gaps in New Orleans's defense. St. Brown was Goff's reliable target, catching 10 passes for 67 yards and two touchdowns, including the winner. For the Saints, Shough showed poise during the comeback, throwing for 410 yards and three touchdowns. Chris Olave was especially dangerous downfield, recording 10 catches for 182 yards. Jameson Williams also made a key 22-yard overtime catch that moved Detroit to the 5-yard line.

What It Means

The victory puts Detroit at 1-0 before a trip to face the Buffalo Bills, giving the Lions proof that their offense can finish close games. After last season's 9-8 record, Detroit wanted Week 1 to show its playoff hopes remain alive. New Orleans falls to 0-1 before meeting the Baltimore Ravens, yet its comeback offered an encouraging sign. The Saints kept competing after trailing 21-0, while Detroit answered under pressure. That perseverance showed how teams can depend on every unit late in a game.

WORDS TO KNOW

From the story.

rallied (v.): Fought back strongly after falling behind.

overtime (n.): An extra period played when a game is tied after regular time.

reliable (adj.): Able to be trusted to perform well when needed.

poise (n.): Calm control, especially in a difficult or stressful situation.

pressure (n.): The stress of needing to succeed in an important moment.

READING

Fill in the bubble for the best answer. Write full sentences.

1 **Which detail best supports the conclusion that New Orleans erased Detroit's early advantage?**

- (A) A Saints field-goal attempt missed late in the game.
- (B) The Saints scored three times and tied the game with 1:07 remaining.
- (C) Derrick Barnes intercepted Tyler Shough after halftime.
- (D) Detroit took a 7-0 lead after Jahmyr Gibbs's early runs.

2 **What does the phrase "rallied behind scores" most nearly mean as it is used in the section?**

- (A) Protected their lead by slowing the game down
- (B) Lost momentum when Detroit scored another touchdown
- (C) Improved their position because several players scored
- (D) Changed their lineup after several players were injured

3 **Which statement best summarizes how Detroit's key offensive players contributed to the overtime victory?**

(A) Gibbs ran effectively, Williams moved the team close to the goal line, and St. Brown caught the winning touchdown.

(B) Gibbs threw deep passes, Williams scored twice, and St. Brown made an interception.

(C) Gibbs made defensive stops, Williams returned a kick, and St. Brown kicked a field goal.

(D) Gibbs caught the overtime pass, Williams rushed for a touchdown, and St. Brown ran for key yards.

4 **Which evidence most strongly supports the idea that Chris Olave was a major receiving threat for New Orleans?**

(A) He threw for 410 yards and three touchdowns.

(B) He recorded 10 catches for 182 yards.

(C) He made a 22-yard overtime catch to the 5-yard line.

(D) He rushed for 156 yards and two touchdowns.

5 **Which central idea is developed in this section?**

(A) Both teams showed resilience, with New Orleans mounting a comeback and Detroit responding under pressure.

(B) Detroit's season will depend entirely on winning its next game against Buffalo.

(C) A team's record after one game determines whether it can reach the playoffs.

(D) New Orleans's loss proves that its offense cannot compete with strong opponents.

6 **Explain how the section shows that both Detroit and New Orleans demonstrated perseverance. Use at least two specific details from the section in your response.**

MATH Use the game stats. Show your work.

1 **On Mia's stat sheet, in a week 1 game, Tyler Shough had an average of 1.5 - (-5.8) yards per passing attempt. Evaluate the expression.**

(A) -4.3
(B) -8.7
(C) 7.3
(D) -0.3

SHOW YOUR WORK

2 **Mia's week 1 stat sheet models Tyler Shough's passing-yard adjustment as 287 - (-123). Evaluate the expression.**

(A) -410
(B) 164
(C) 410
(D) -35301

SHOW YOUR WORK

3 **In week 1, Tyler Shough had 56 passing attempts. His practice total is 60% higher. Find it. Round to the nearest whole number.**

(A) 392
(B) 90
(C) 22
(D) 34

SHOW YOUR WORK

4 **Mia's week 1 stat sheet models Jared Goff's passing-yard adjustment as 309 + (-103). Evaluate the expression.**

(A) 412
(B) -31827
(C) -206
(D) 206

SHOW YOUR WORK

5 **In week 1, Jared Goff averaged 5.28 yards per pass attempt. Suppose his practice average is 1.58 yards higher. What is his practice average?**

(A) 6.86
(B) 5.44
(C) 3.70
(D) 1.58

SHOW YOUR WORK

PLAYER SPOTLIGHT · Tyler Shough (NO)

Passing yards: 410 | Interception thrown: 2 | Fumble lost: 1
Passing TD: 3 | Rushing yards: 8

6 **Tyler Shough's stats from this game (NO): 410 passing yards, 3 passing touchdowns, 2 interceptions, 8 rushing yards, 1 fumble lost. Use the Player Spotlight above. Scoring: each passing yard = 0.04 point; each passing touchdown = 4 points; each interception = -2 points; each rushing yard = 0.1 point; each fumble lost = -2 points. How many fantasy points did Tyler Shough score?**

(A) 23.2
(B) 35.2
(C) 47.8
(D) 29.2

SHOW YOUR WORK

ANSWER KEY

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About 20 minutes

Separate these pages before giving the worksheet to students.

Standards: RI.8.1 · RI.8.2 · RI.8.4 · 7.NS.A.3 · 7.RP.A.3

READING

Correct answers are filled in.

1 B — The Saints scored three times and tied the game with 1:07 remaining.

The Saints rallied with scores by Kendre Miller, Devaughn Vele, and Juwan Johnson, tying the game after Detroit had led 21-0.

2 C — Improved their position because several players scored

In context, New Orleans "rallied" by scoring enough points to come back from a 21-0 deficit and tie the game.

3 A — Gibbs ran effectively, Williams moved the team close to the goal line, and St. Brown caught the winning touchdown.

The section explains that Gibbs rushed for 156 yards and two touchdowns, Williams made a 22-yard overtime catch to the 5-yard line, and St. Brown caught the winner.

4 B — He recorded 10 catches for 182 yards.

Olave's 10 catches and 182 receiving yards directly show his large impact as a downfield receiver.

5 A — Both teams showed resilience, with New Orleans mounting a comeback and Detroit responding under pressure.

The section describes the Saints continuing to compete after trailing 21-0 and Detroit answering under pressure, developing the idea of perseverance by both teams.

6 What a good answer includes:

A strong response explains that New Orleans kept competing after trailing 21-0, which made its comeback encouraging despite the loss. It also explains that Detroit answered under pressure to win, and may connect these details to the statement that teams can depend on every unit late in a game.

MATH

Correct answers are filled in.

1	C	7.3
2	C	410
3	B	90
4	D	206
5	A	6.86
6	A	23.2

410 passing yards × 0.04 = 16.4
3 passing touchdowns × 4 = 12
2 interceptions × -2 = -4
8 rushing yards × 0.1 = 0.8
1 fumble lost × -2 = -2
Total: 16.4 + 12 − 4 + 0.8 − 2 = 23.2