Window Tap Mystery

Read a story and notice who tells it.

3.LF.28 "Identify the narration of a literary text as first person or third person."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each *I* and *my* used by the storyteller outside quotation marks. Circle the storyteller's name the first time it appears.

The Tapping at the Window

1. On Monday, I heard a tiny tapping sound behind our classroom window. My friend Ben heard it too. "Sam, do you hear that?" he asked. I pressed my ear close to the glass. Tap, tap, tap. A brown bird hopped along the sill with a twig in its beak. I wondered if it wanted to come inside, but Ben pointed up at the roof.

2. Above the window, a loose strip of paper hung from the roof edge. The bird pecked at the glass once more, then tugged at the paper. It flew to a nest tucked under the eaves. I realized the tapping came from the bird's beak. "I thought it was rain," Ben said. I smiled as the bird carried the paper back to its nest.

3. At lunch, I returned to the window with Ben. The bird had tucked the paper into the side of its nest. I could see two small heads rise for a moment, then sink out of sight. "You found our mystery, Sam," Ben said. I wrote the story in my notebook, but I left out the part where I almost blamed the tapping on a ghost.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Is this story told in first person or third person? Write one word from the story that helps you tell.

2. Who tells the story? What does Ben say in paragraph 1 that helps you know?

3. In paragraph 2, who says "I thought it was rain," Ben or Sam? How do you know?

4. Find two words in paragraph 3, outside quotation marks, that show the storyteller is in the story. Write them.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences about a character who finds something surprising at school. Tell the story in third person using the character's name and *he*, *she*, or *they*. Then write "Third person" and one word from your story that proves it.

ANSWER KEY

Window Tap Mystery

GRADE 3 · 3.LF.28

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each *I* and *my* used by the storyteller outside quotation marks. Circle the storyteller's name the first time it appears. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Is this story told in first person or third person? Write one word from the story that helps you tell.	**First person. The storyteller uses "I."**
2	Who tells the story? What does Ben say in paragraph 1 that helps you know?	**Sam tells the story. Ben calls the storyteller "Sam."**
3	In paragraph 2, who says "I thought it was rain," Ben or Sam? How do you know?	**Ben says it. The words after the quotation say "Ben said."**
4	Find two words in paragraph 3, outside quotation marks, that show the storyteller is in the story. Write them.	**"I" and "my."**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Maya spotted a tiny feather beside the school garden. She looked up and saw a sparrow perched on the fence. Maya showed the feather to her friend. Third person: She.

For the marking job, accept the first "Sam" circled and the storyteller's uses of "I" and "my" underlined. The quoted "I" in paragraph 2 belongs to Ben, so it should not be underlined.