The Curtain Mystery

Follow a story from plan to published page

4-5.R4 "Utilize a writing process to plan, draft, revise, edit, and publish writings in various genres."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the writer's three-part plan, circle the revised story line, and number the title correction and library display 1 and 2. Your marks will show how the story changed before readers saw it.

How I Wrote a Mystery

1. When our class made a story booklet, I wanted to write a mystery set in the school gym. I planned three parts in my notebook: Nia hears tapping behind the curtain, she looks for clues, and she finds a loose sign moving in the breeze from a fan. My plan helped me keep the ending connected to the strange sound.

2. Next, I drafted the story in sentences. One line said, "Nia heard a noise." My partner said the moment did not feel mysterious yet. During revision, I changed it to "Tap, tap, tap came from behind the thick red curtain." I also moved Nia's discovery of the fan closer to the ending, so readers could wonder about the sound longer.

3. After revising, I edited my draft for small mistakes. I found that I had written the title as "the Tapping Curtain," so I changed the first word to "The." I read each sentence aloud to check for missing words. Finally, I copied my clean story onto a booklet page and added my name. Our class placed the finished booklet in the library for other students to read.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which three events did the writer plan before drafting? How did that plan help the ending?

2. Write the draft line and its revised version. How did the revision help the story?

3. Which title change was an edit rather than a revision? Why?

4. What did the writer do to publish the story, and who could read it?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Plan a three-part mini mystery set somewhere other than a gym. Write one first-draft sentence and revise it with a vivid detail, then edit your work and publish a titled, three-sentence final story for a class display.

ANSWER KEY

The Curtain Mystery

GRADE 4 · 4-5.R4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the writer's three-part plan, circle the revised story line, and number the title correction and library display 1 and 2. Your marks will show how the story changed before readers saw it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which three events did the writer plan before drafting? How did that plan help the ending?	**Nia hears tapping, looks for clues, and finds a loose sign moving in the fan's breeze. The plan connects the sign to the tapping.**
2	Write the draft line and its revised version. How did the revision help the story?	**"Nia heard a noise" became "Tap, tap, tap came from behind the thick red curtain." The new line makes the sound and setting more vivid and mysterious.**
3	Which title change was an edit rather than a revision? Why?	**The writer changed "the" to "The" at the start of the title. This fixes a capital letter rather than changing a story idea.**
4	What did the writer do to publish the story, and who could read it?	**The writer copied the clean story onto a booklet page and added a name. The class put the booklet in the library for other students to read.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Plan: Jo hears a squeak in the hallway. Jo follows the sound. Jo finds a squeaky cart wheel.
Draft: Jo heard a sound.
Revision: A sharp squeak came from the empty hallway.
Final title: The Hallway Squeak
A sharp squeak came from the empty hallway. Jo followed the sound past the library door. A custodian pushed a cart around the corner, and its wheel squeaked.

Accept any three-part plan, draft line, and more vivid revision that fit a titled, three-sentence mystery set outside a gym. The final story should have checked capitals and punctuation and be suitable for a class display.