A Voice Carries

Read a model narrative, then write a scene with a clear sequence.

5.LF.34 "Write personal or fictional narratives incorporating literary elements (characters, plot, setting, conflict), dialogue, strong voice, and clear event sequences."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that show the setting, circle spoken words, and number three events that show the problem, Maya's response, and the ending.

The Quiet Microphone

1 Backstage in the school gym, I held my poem so tightly that the paper bent. The talent show was starting, and my little brother sat in the front row, swinging his sneakers. I had practiced all week, but the crowd sounded like a giant pot of popcorn. "Next up, Maya!" called Mr. Lin. I stepped into the bright circle of light and opened my mouth.

2 Nothing came from the microphone. I tapped it once, then twice. A squeal burst from the speakers, and the gym went quiet. My face felt hotter than the stage lights. "We can wait," Mr. Lin whispered from the side. I shook my head. If I waited, my courage might leave without me. I set the microphone down and looked straight at my brother.

3 "The moon has a pocket," I began, using the loud voice I saved for calling him in from the yard. The back row leaned forward. Halfway through, I lost my place, but my brother made a round moon with his hands. I remembered the next line and finished without the microphone. When everyone clapped, I grinned at Mr. Lin. "Maybe the moon stole the batteries," I said.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the gym setting make the microphone problem harder for Maya?

2. What problem interrupts Maya's performance, and what does she do instead of waiting?

3. Why does Maya decide not to wait when Mr. Lin offers?

4. How does Maya's last spoken line show her voice after the problem is solved?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a fictional scene about a character whose plan goes wrong during a school or neighborhood event. In 5 to 7 sentences, show the setting, the problem and its solution in order, include dialogue, and give the narrator or a character a strong voice.

ANSWER KEY

A Voice Carries

GRADE 5 · 5.LF.34

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details that show the setting, circle spoken words, and number three events that show the problem, Maya's response, and the ending. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the gym setting make the microphone problem harder for Maya?	**She must speak to a crowd in the gym, including people in the back row, without a working microphone.**
2	What problem interrupts Maya's performance, and what does she do instead of waiting?	**Her voice does not come through the microphone. She sets it down and begins her poem in a loud voice.**
3	Why does Maya decide not to wait when Mr. Lin offers?	**She thinks her courage might leave if she waits.**
4	How does Maya's last spoken line show her voice after the problem is solved?	**She jokes that the moon stole the batteries, showing her playful imagination and relief.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the neighborhood boat race by the pond, I launched my paper boat toward the finish line. Then a breeze pushed it into a patch of reeds, where it stuck like a sandwich in a lunchbox. "I can reach it with this branch," said my cousin Leo. I held his jacket while he gently pulled the boat free. We sent it across the pond again, and it crossed the line last, but still afloat. "Captain Crumple lives to race again!" I announced.

For the marking task, accept setting details such as the school gym, front row, stage lights, and back row. Students' scenes should include a distinct setting, characters, a problem and solution in sequence, dialogue, and a recognizable voice.