

The Missing Map

Notice how a story begins and moves from one event to the next.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.3a “Establish a situation and introduce a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentences that set up the situation, circle the characters, and number the main events in order, starting with 1. These marks show who is in the story and how the events unfold.

A Walk at Pine Hill

- ① On Saturday morning, I met my cousin Lena at Pine Hill Park. We planned to follow a trail to the old lookout tower and sketch the view. Lena carried a small backpack with water, paper, and crayons. I held the trail map because I had visited the park once before. Dark clouds floated above the tall pines.
- ② At the first fork, the map slipped from my hand and blew into a patch of ferns. Lena and I searched under leaves and beside rocks, but we could not find it. Then we heard a faint meow. A gray kitten peeked from behind a log with the map caught under its paw. Lena gently lifted the map, and the kitten trotted away.
- ③ With the map safe again, we chose the right path and hurried toward the tower. Soon, raindrops tapped our jackets, so we stopped under the tower roof. From there, we saw the valley before the rain grew heavier. After the shower ended, Lena sketched the wet trees, and I drew the kitten near the ferns. We walked back to the park gate, laughing about our unexpected helper.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Where and when does the story begin? What do the narrator and Lena plan to do?

2 Who tells the story? What word shows you this?

3 What problem happens at the first fork, and how is the problem solved?

4 Put these events in order: the rain begins, the map blows away, the map is found.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a three-paragraph story about a small surprise during a plan at school. In the first paragraph, introduce yourself as the narrator, another character, and the plan. In the next two paragraphs, tell the events in order and show how the surprise is handled.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the sentences that set up the situation, circle the characters, and number the main events in order, starting with 1. These marks show who is in the story and how the events unfold. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Where and when does the story begin? What do the narrator and Lena plan to do?	The story begins on Saturday morning at Pine Hill Park. The narrator and Lena plan to follow a trail to the lookout tower and sketch the view.
2	Who tells the story? What word shows you this?	An unnamed narrator tells the story. The word "I" shows this.
3	What problem happens at the first fork, and how is the problem solved?	The map blows into the ferns. A kitten has the map under its paw, and Lena lifts it.
4	Put these events in order: the rain begins, the map blows away, the map is found.	1. The map blows away. 2. The map is found. 3. The rain begins.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On Tuesday, I was helping my friend Omar plant bean seeds in our class garden. Our teacher gave us small cups of soil and a watering can. Omar dug holes while I placed the seeds inside. We wanted to finish before recess. First, we carried the cups to the sunny garden bed. Then a gust of wind knocked over the watering can. Water rushed across the path and soaked our seed labels. Omar picked up the can while I gathered the wet labels. Next, we made new labels with a marker. After that, we planted the seeds and watered them carefully. At recess, our teacher showed us where to put the extra cups. Omar and I watched for tiny sprouts during the next week.

Accept equivalent descriptions of the setting, narrator, characters, problem, and event order. For Part 3, accept varied topics when the writing introduces a situation and narrator or characters, then presents events in a clear, natural order.