Planting Day Sequence

Mark how a model narrative sets up characters and events.

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 words that tell when and where the story begins. Circle the words that identify the narrator and the names of other characters, then number the six sentences that begin with First, Next, Then, After that, or Finally from 1 to 6 to show the event order.

A Row of Beans

1. On Saturday morning, I met my neighbor Rosa at the community garden behind our apartment building. The sun was warm, and the soil smelled damp from rain the night before. Rosa carried a packet of bean seeds, while I held a small trowel. We had promised Mr. Chen, the garden leader, that we would plant a row for the spring fair.

2. First, Rosa used a stick to make a shallow hole in the soil. Next, I dropped three bean seeds into the hole. Then, Rosa covered the seeds gently and pressed the soil with her hands. A robin hopped near the fence, looking for a snack. We watched it for a moment before returning to our work.

3. After that, I filled my watering can at the spigot and sprinkled water over our row. Next, Rosa pushed a wooden label into the ground so we would remember what we planted. Finally, we waved to Mr. Chen and told him the row was ready. He smiled and said the beans would need sun, water, and patience. Rosa and I planned to check the garden each week.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What words tell when and where the story begins?

2. Who tells the story? Name the two other characters introduced in the passage.

3. What happens immediately after the narrator drops the bean seeds into the hole?

4. Write events 4, 5, and 6 in order.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a six-sentence story about doing an activity with another person. In the first sentence, tell when and where it happens and introduce yourself and the other person. Begin the next five sentences with First, Next, Then, After that, and Finally to tell events in order.

ANSWER KEY

Planting Day Sequence

GRADE 3 · W.3.3a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the words that tell when and where the story begins. Circle the words that identify the narrator and the names of other characters, then number the six sentences that begin with First, Next, Then, After that, or Finally from 1 to 6 to show the event order. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What words tell when and where the story begins?	**The story begins on Saturday morning at the community garden behind the narrator's apartment building.**
2	Who tells the story? Name the two other characters introduced in the passage.	**The narrator, called "I," tells the story. The other characters are Rosa and Mr. Chen.**
3	What happens immediately after the narrator drops the bean seeds into the hole?	**Rosa covers the seeds gently and presses the soil with her hands.**
4	Write events 4, 5, and 6 in order.	**4. The narrator waters the row. 5. Rosa puts a wooden label in the ground. 6. Rosa and the narrator wave to Mr. Chen and tell him the row is ready.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Last Tuesday after school, I met my cousin Maya at the park to fly a kite. First, we untangled the kite string. Next, Maya held the kite while I ran across the grass. Then, the wind lifted the kite above the trees. After that, we took turns holding the handle. Finally, we rolled up the string when the sky turned gray.

Accept equivalent wording for the setting, narrator, characters, and event sequence. For the open response, check that the first sentence establishes a situation and characters, and that the remaining events follow a clear, natural order.