Boat in the Reeds

Notice how a narrative uses details and sequence to tell an event.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.3 "Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details that help you picture the event, circle the sequence words, and number four main events in the order they happen.

Maya's Boat Race

1. On Saturday morning, Maya carried her cardboard boat to the park pond for the neighborhood race. The grass glittered with rain, and cool drops darkened her sleeves. At the water's edge, she set the boat down, but a gust pushed it into the reeds. Her stomach tightened as the boat rocked farther away between the tall green stems.

2. First, Maya slipped off her shoes and stepped into the chilly, muddy water. She moved slowly so her feet would not sink. Then she reached with a long fallen branch, but its tip bent away from the boat. A nearby duck splashed, and Maya grabbed the branch with both hands before trying again more carefully.

3. Finally, the branch caught under the boat's bow, and Maya pulled it free. Mud streaked her knees, yet she laughed when the boat bobbed back to shore. She wiped the rain from her face and placed the boat on the starting line. When the whistle blew, Maya watched it glide across the pond, proud that she had not given up.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What problem begins the narrative, and how does Maya feel about it?

2. What does Maya do after she steps into the pond and before the branch catches the boat?

3. Name two descriptive details from the passage. Tell what each detail helps you picture or feel.

4. How does the last paragraph give the narrative a clear ending? Use one detail from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a six-sentence narrative about solving a small problem. Use First, Then, and Finally, include at least two sensory details, and end by showing how you feel.

ANSWER KEY

Boat in the Reeds

GRADE 4 · W.4.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three details that help you picture the event, circle the sequence words, and number four main events in the order they happen. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What problem begins the narrative, and how does Maya feel about it?	**A gust pushes Maya's boat into the reeds. Her stomach tightens as the boat moves farther away.**
2	What does Maya do after she steps into the pond and before the branch catches the boat?	**She reaches for the boat with a long fallen branch, but the tip bends away. She grabs the branch with both hands and tries again carefully.**
3	Name two descriptive details from the passage. Tell what each detail helps you picture or feel.	**Answers may include "the grass glittered with rain," which helps the reader picture the wet park, and "chilly, muddy water," which helps the reader feel what Maya experiences.**
4	How does the last paragraph give the narrative a clear ending? Use one detail from the passage.	**Maya gets her boat back, places it on the starting line, and watches it glide across the pond. She feels proud because she did not give up.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

First, I heard a soft chirp from the dark garage. I followed the sound past dusty boxes and a rusty bicycle. Then I found a tiny bird trapped behind a screen. My hands shook as I lifted the screen carefully. Finally, the bird fluttered through the open door and into the maple tree. I smiled when its song floated back to me.

Accept equivalent answers that use accurate details and events from the passage. For the narrative, look for six sentences with a problem, ordered events, sensory details, and an ending that shows the writer's feeling.