Garden Ready

Notice how a story opens and moves forward.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.3a "Orient the reader by establishing a situation and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words that tell the starting situation, circle the narrator and characters, and number four main events in the order they happen.

Before the Picnic

1 On Saturday morning, I arrived at the community garden with my grandmother. Dark clouds crowded above the tomato beds, and the air smelled like wet dirt. We had promised to water the plants before the neighborhood picnic. I carried a small metal can while Grandma unlocked the green tool shed beside the old wooden fence.

2 First, Grandma showed me how to fill the can at the rain barrel. I tipped the water slowly around the bean plants, but my shoe slipped in the mud. The can splashed onto my jeans. Grandma laughed, handed me a towel, and helped me stand. Then we moved carefully down each row until every plant had a drink.

3 At last, the sun peeked through the clouds as we finished the last row. Near the gate, we found a tiny frog resting beside a cabbage leaf. We watched it hop into the shade, then packed the tools away. When picnic guests began to arrive, I felt proud that the garden was ready for them all.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What situation is established at the beginning of the story? Include where and when the story starts and why the narrator is at the garden.

2. Who tells the story? What word in the passage helps you know?

3. Which three words or phrases show that the story is moving from one part to the next?

4. What happens after the narrator slips in the mud and before the two move down each row?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a six-sentence scene about helping at a place you know. In sentence 1, establish where and when the scene happens and introduce the narrator or a character. Use First, Then, and At last to organize the events, and make the last sentence show what happens at the end.

ANSWER KEY # Garden Ready

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words that tell the starting situation, circle the narrator and characters, 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 situation is established at the beginning of the story? Include where and when the story starts and why the narrator is at the garden.	**The story starts on Saturday morning at the community garden. The narrator and Grandma are there to water plants before a neighborhood picnic.**
2	Who tells the story? What word in the passage helps you know?	**The narrator tells the story. The word "I" shows that the narrator is speaking.**
3	Which three words or phrases show that the story is moving from one part to the next?	**First, Then, and At last.**
4	What happens after the narrator slips in the mud and before the two move down each row?	**Grandma laughs, gives the narrator a towel, and helps the narrator stand.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On Friday afternoon, I met my cousin Leo at the library's book sale. We had one hour to choose books for the classroom. First, Leo sorted the mystery books into neat stacks. I checked the prices and carried our choices to a table. Then, we found a funny animal story that both of us wanted. At last, we paid for the books before the sale closed.

Accept equivalent descriptions of the opening situation and event sequence when they match the passage. For the writing task, look for a clear opening, an introduced narrator or character, six sentences, sequence words, and a logical ending.