

Stormy Garden Rescue

Notice how a writer introduces a situation and moves events forward.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.3a "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 details that establish the setting and purpose, circle the first mention of the narrator and each other character, and number five main events in order. These marks show how the story begins and how its events unfold.

Saving the Tomato Plants

- ① On Saturday morning, I arrived at the community garden with my cousin Leo. Gray clouds hung over the park, and the air smelled like wet soil. We had promised to help Ms. Rivera move the young tomato plants before the rain began. I carried a tray of pots while Leo pulled a red wagon along the muddy path.
- ② First, Ms. Rivera showed us an empty shelf inside the tool shed. Leo parked the wagon beside the gate, and I set the tray down carefully. Then a sharp wind bent the tallest plants. We hurried back to the garden beds, lifted the pots one at a time, and placed them in the wagon. Rain tapped the leaves as we made our second trip.
- ③ At last, we slid the final pot onto the shelf just as the rain began to pour. Ms. Rivera handed us dry towels and thanked us for saving the plants. Leo and I watched water streak down the shed window. Although our shoes were covered in mud, we laughed because the tomatoes were safe and the work was done.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What situation does the first paragraph establish? Include the time, place, and purpose.

2 Who tells the story, and which two other characters are introduced?

3 What happens after the wind bends the plants but before the rain begins to pour?

4 Which words signal the beginning, middle, and ending of the event sequence?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a three-paragraph narrative about completing an important task with another person. In the first paragraph, establish the time, place, narrator, and character. Organize at least four events in a natural order, using transition words.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that establish the setting and purpose, circle the first mention of the narrator and each other character, and number five main events in order. These marks show how the story begins and how its events unfold. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What situation does the first paragraph establish? Include the time, place, and purpose.	On Saturday morning at a community garden, the narrator and Leo plan to help Ms. Rivera move young tomato plants before rain starts.
2	Who tells the story, and which two other characters are introduced?	An unnamed first-person narrator tells the story. The other characters are the narrator's cousin Leo and Ms. Rivera.
3	What happens after the wind bends the plants but before the rain begins to pour?	The narrator and Leo return to the garden beds, lift the pots into the wagon, and make another trip to the shed.
4	Which words signal the beginning, middle, and ending of the event sequence?	"First" signals the beginning, "Then" signals the middle, and "At last" signals the ending.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Last Friday afternoon, I met my neighbor Amira at the library entrance. Our class needed pictures for a poster about local birds, and we planned to find them in old nature magazines. I carried a notebook, while Amira brought colored sticky notes. First, we searched the magazine shelf near the windows. Amira found a picture of a blue jay, but its page was torn. Next, we looked through a book about city parks and copied facts beside each picture. When the librarian announced that the building would close soon, we gathered our materials. Finally, we checked our notes at a table by the door. We had enough pictures and facts to begin the poster at school. As we walked home, Amira said the blue jay would make a perfect title picture.

Accept reasonable paraphrases that identify the setting, purpose, characters, and event order. For the writing task, accept varied topics if the response clearly orients the reader and presents events in a logical sequence.