A Ride Begins

Notice how a narrative opens and moves from one event to the next.

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 the sentences that introduce the setting, characters, and goal. Circle time-order words, then number the main events 1 through 5 to show how the action unfolds.

Maya's First Ride

1 On Saturday morning, Maya carried her helmet to the city park, where her older brother Leo had promised to teach her to ride without training wheels. A cool wind shook the maple leaves, and the paved path curved beside the playground. Maya felt excited, but her hands squeezed the helmet straps. Leo rolled out Maya's blue bike and checked the tires.

2 First, Leo held the back of the seat while Maya pushed one foot on a pedal. She wobbled, then pressed harder and moved forward. After a few steps, Leo let go, but he ran close behind her. Maya looked straight ahead instead of down at her feet. The bike stayed upright long enough for her to reach the red bench.

3 Then a dog barked near the playground, and Maya jerked the handlebars. The bike tipped toward the grass. Leo caught the seat before she fell, and they both laughed with relief. Maya took a breath, turned the bike around, and tried again. This time, she pedaled past the bench, around the fountain, and back to Leo. "I did it!" she called.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the first paragraph establish the situation? Name the setting and Maya's goal.

2. What detail in the first paragraph shows how Maya feels before she starts riding?

3. What happens after Leo lets go of the bike but before Maya reaches the red bench?

4. What problem happens near the playground, and what does Maya do next?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a six-sentence narrative about trying a new activity. In the first sentence, establish the setting and the character's goal, then use time-order words so the events unfold naturally.

ANSWER KEY

A Ride Begins

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentences that introduce the setting, characters, and goal. Circle time-order words, then number the main events 1 through 5 to show how the action unfolds. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the first paragraph establish the situation? Name the setting and Maya's goal.	**The story takes place at a city park on Saturday morning. Maya wants to learn to ride a bike without training wheels.**
2	What detail in the first paragraph shows how Maya feels before she starts riding?	**Her hands squeeze the helmet straps, showing that she is nervous or unsure.**
3	What happens after Leo lets go of the bike but before Maya reaches the red bench?	**Leo runs close behind Maya, and Maya looks straight ahead instead of down at her feet.**
4	What problem happens near the playground, and what does Maya do next?	**A barking dog startles Maya, and the bike tips toward the grass. Leo catches the seat, and Maya turns around and tries again.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On Tuesday afternoon, I met my cousin at the pool because I wanted to learn to dive. First, she showed me how to stretch my arms over my head. Next, I stood at the edge and took a slow breath. I bent my knees, but I jumped too far from the board. After I climbed out, my cousin explained how to push forward. Then I tried again and splashed into the water feet first.

Accept answers that accurately identify details from the passage. For the writing task, look for an opening that establishes a situation and character goal, plus a clear, logical sequence of events.