Garden Time Trail

Track how transitions guide events from one moment to the next.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.3c "Use a variety of transitional words, phrases, and clauses to manage the sequence of events."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each word, phrase, or clause that tells when an event happens or what happens next. Number your underlined marks in the order the events occur.

Mina's Garden Morning

1. On Saturday morning, Mina carried a bucket to the community garden. First, she checked the dry soil around the tomato plants. Because the sun had been hot all week, the leaves drooped near the ground. Next, Mina filled her bucket at the rain barrel. Before she poured, she looked for tiny seedlings that could be washed away.

2. Afterward, she poured water slowly around each plant. Meanwhile, her brother Leo pulled weeds near the path. When Mina noticed a wilted plant, she called Leo over. Together, they loosened the soil with small hand tools. Then they added a thin layer of straw, so the soil would stay moist longer. At last, Mina returned the bucket to the rain barrel.

3. Later that afternoon, dark clouds moved across the sky. As the first drops fell, Mina and Leo hurried to the tool shed. Soon, rain soaked the garden beds. While they waited inside, they planned where to plant carrots next month. Finally, the clouds passed, and the garden glistened in the sunlight. The children walked home, knowing the tomatoes had a better chance to grow.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which two transition words show that Mina moves from checking the soil to filling her bucket?

2. What does the clause "Before she poured" tell you Mina did before she watered the plants?

3. What does "Meanwhile" show about Leo pulling weeds and Mina pouring water?

4. In the last paragraph, which transition introduces the rain after Mina and Leo reach the shed, and which transition signals the last major change in the weather?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence mini narrative about preparing for a school play. Use an opening time phrase, a transition that shows two actions happening at once, a transition clause, and a closing transition.

ANSWER KEY

Garden Time Trail

GRADE 5 · W.5.3c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each word, phrase, or clause that tells when an event happens or what happens next. Number your underlined marks in the order the events occur. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which two transition words show that Mina moves from checking the soil to filling her bucket?	**First and Next.**
2	What does the clause "Before she poured" tell you Mina did before she watered the plants?	**She looked for tiny seedlings that could be washed away.**
3	What does "Meanwhile" show about Leo pulling weeds and Mina pouring water?	**Leo pulled weeds at the same time Mina poured water.**
4	In the last paragraph, which transition introduces the rain after Mina and Leo reach the shed, and which transition signals the last major change in the weather?	**Soon introduces the rain, and Finally signals that the clouds passed.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On Friday afternoon, I carried the painted signs to the stage. While my friend tested the lights, I taped a loose corner on the backdrop. After the bell rang, our group practiced the first scene. Finally, we placed the props in a box and went home.

Accept underlined time and order transitions such as First, Next, Before she poured, Afterward, Meanwhile, When Mina noticed, Then, At last, Later that afternoon, As the first drops fell, Soon, While they waited, and Finally. For the writing task, accept any clear four-sentence narrative that uses all four requested types of transitions to make the event order clear.