Sequence on the Move

A narrative model for setting, characters, and event order.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.6.3a "Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that establish the setting or introduce the narrator and characters. Number the major events in the order they happen to show how the story unfolds.

The Windy Sketchbook

1 On Saturday morning, I arrived at the Riverside Market with my grandfather and my sketchbook tucked under my arm. I am Lena Ortiz, and I had promised to draw the old clock tower for my art class. The market was already busy, with vendors arranging peaches and musicians testing their instruments. Grandfather stopped to buy bread while I sat on the fountain wall, choosing a spot where I could see the tower's copper roof clearly.

2 After I finished the outline, a gust of wind lifted the top page of my sketchbook. I grabbed for it, but the page skidded across the wet pavement and slipped beneath a vegetable stand. First, I asked the vendor if I could look underneath. Then Grandfather held the stand's striped cloth aside while I crawled carefully along the ground. My knees got damp, and the smell of basil filled the narrow space, but I spotted the page beside a crate of carrots.

3 I slid the page back into my sketchbook and checked the drawing. A gray smear crossed one corner, yet the clock tower was still easy to recognize. Because the market bell would ring at noon, I hurried back to the fountain and added the last lines before Grandfather returned with the bread. When the bell sounded, I showed him my finished sketch. He smiled, and I decided the smudge made the drawing look like a cloud drifting past the roof.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Where and when does the story begin?

2. Who tells the story, and what does she plan to do?

3. What event creates a problem for Lena?

4. List three major events in the order they happen after Lena begins drawing.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 120 to 150 word opening to a realistic narrative in two paragraphs. Introduce yourself as the narrator, establish a specific time and place, introduce at least one other character, and organize at least three events in a logical order.

ANSWER KEY

Sequence on the Move

GRADE 6 · W.6.3a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details that establish the setting or introduce the narrator and characters. Number the major events in the order they happen to show how the story unfolds. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Where and when does the story begin?	**It begins on Saturday morning at the Riverside Market.**
2	Who tells the story, and what does she plan to do?	**Lena Ortiz tells the story, and she plans to draw the old clock tower for art class.**
3	What event creates a problem for Lena?	**A gust of wind lifts a page from her sketchbook, and it slips beneath a vegetable stand.**
4	List three major events in the order they happen after Lena begins drawing.	**The wind carries away her page, Lena and Grandfather search under the vegetable stand, and Lena finishes and shows her sketch to Grandfather.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At 7:15 on Tuesday, I waited outside the school library with my neighbor Malik and a box of donated books. I am Tessa, the newest volunteer on the book drive committee, and Malik had agreed to help me carry the box to Room 204. Rain tapped the sidewalk, so we tucked the books beneath our jackets and hurried through the side entrance. Inside, the hallway smelled like wet backpacks, and the first bell was only ten minutes away. First, we stacked the books on the table near the office. Then I noticed that the box label said "mystery novels," but several books were science guides. Malik and I checked each title and made two neat piles. When Ms. Chen arrived, we explained the mix-up and moved the science guides to the correct shelf. By the bell, the table was ready for students to browse.

Accept setting details that identify the Saturday morning market, Lena as the narrator, and Grandfather as a character. For the open response, accept varied topics if the writing includes a clear context, narrator or characters, and a naturally ordered sequence of at least three events.