Lights Out, Robot On

Trace how a model narrative builds a challenge, response, and ending.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.3 "Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words or phrases that signal changes in time or action, circle descriptive details, and number the four major events to trace how the narrative develops.

The Delayed Showcase

1 At 6:40 on Friday evening, I rolled my bike toward the community center, carrying a shoebox with my robot inside. Rain tapped on my helmet, and the cardboard grew soft against my gloves. The regional robotics showcase started at seven, and I had spent three weeks teaching my robot to sort colored blocks. When I reached the entrance, a volunteer pointed to a sign that said, "Power out. Event delayed." My stomach tightened as the lights blinked overhead.

2 Inside, teams crowded near the windows, holding projects like precious parcels. I set my shoebox on a table and checked the batteries. They were full, but my robot needed the center's bright floor tape to recognize its path. Then Mateo, a competitor from my school, opened his flashlight app. "We can make a path ourselves," he said. We taped strips of blue paper across the dim floor while rain drummed harder on the roof. Slowly, my hands stopped shaking.

3 After twenty minutes, the electricity returned with a click, and the room filled with cheers. The judges decided to continue the showcase, beginning with teams that had waited longest. When my turn came, Mateo held his phone light beside the course, even though the ceiling lamps were on. My robot bumped the first paper strip, paused, and then pushed a red block into the correct bin. I laughed so loudly that a judge laughed too. On the ride home, the wet streets shone like mirrors, and my soggy shoebox felt lighter than air.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What problem begins the narrative, and how does it affect the narrator's plan for the showcase?

2. What action changes the situation in the second paragraph? Explain how it moves the events forward.

3. Copy one sensory detail from the passage. What mood or feeling does that detail create?

4. How does the final paragraph show that the narrator has changed? Use two details from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 120- to 160-word narrative about an unexpected obstacle during an activity you care about. Include a clear sequence of events, at least three sensory details, dialogue or a thought, and an ending that shows how you respond to the obstacle.

ANSWER KEY

Lights Out, Robot On

GRADE 7 · W.7.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words or phrases that signal changes in time or action, circle descriptive details, and number the four major events to trace how the narrative develops. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What problem begins the narrative, and how does it affect the narrator's plan for the showcase?	**A power outage delays the showcase. The narrator's robot needs bright floor tape to recognize its path, so the outage makes the planned demonstration difficult.**
2	What action changes the situation in the second paragraph? Explain how it moves the events forward.	**Mateo suggests making a path with his flashlight, and the students tape blue paper strips across the floor. This gives the robot a path and lets the narrator continue preparing.**
3	Copy one sensory detail from the passage. What mood or feeling does that detail create?	**"Rain drummed harder on the roof" creates a tense, uneasy mood during the delay.**
4	How does the final paragraph show that the narrator has changed? Use two details from the passage.	**The narrator changes from nervous to relieved and happy. Earlier, the narrator's hands shake, but later the narrator laughs loudly and feels that the soggy shoebox is lighter than air.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On Saturday morning, I carried my poster to the bus stop for the science fair. The air smelled like wet leaves, and cold drops slid down my sleeves. When the bus arrived, a gust of wind ripped the poster from my hands and sent it into a muddy puddle. "My graphs!" I shouted. For one second, I wanted to go home. Then my neighbor Asha knelt beside me and pulled the dripping paper free. At school, we used the library printer to make new labels, and I redrew the wet bars with a blue marker. When the judges stopped at my table, the fresh paper curled at the corners, but I explained every result clearly. I missed the first bus, yet I caught the next one smiling.

Accept equivalent explanations that use accurate passage evidence. For the narrative, look for an organized beginning, middle, and ending, relevant descriptive details, and a response to the obstacle.