

Story Night Switch

Trace how a narrative opens and moves through connected events.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.3a “Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and point of view 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 where, when, and why the scene is happening. Circle the narrator and character names, then number four major events in the order they happen.

A New Plan

- ① On the first Saturday of October, I unlocked the door of the Cedar Street Library ten minutes before our town's storytelling night. Rain tapped the windows, and the lobby smelled like wet coats and cinnamon tea. I was volunteering at the welcome table because my older sister, Lena, had promised to introduce the first speaker. When Lena hurried in, her backpack was dripping and her face was pale. “The speaker’s train is delayed,” she whispered. “We need a new plan.”
- ② I looked toward the reading room, where thirty folding chairs faced an empty microphone. Guests were arriving, shaking umbrellas and checking the printed program. First, Lena called the station from the library office. While she listened, I asked Mr. Ortiz, the librarian, whether anyone in town could tell a story. He pointed to a woman arranging cookies near the window. She was Ms. Bell, a retired park ranger who had once rescued hikers during a snowstorm. Lena returned, covered the phone, and nodded at me.
- ③ Then I crossed the room and explained our problem to Ms. Bell. She laughed softly, wiped flour from her hands, and agreed to speak. At seven o’clock, Lena welcomed the audience and introduced Ms. Bell. For the next twenty minutes, Ms. Bell described following a compass through blowing snow and finding the hikers beside a frozen creek. Just as the applause began, Lena’s phone buzzed. The delayed speaker had arrived. Lena smiled at me, and I opened the door for him.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What details in paragraph 1 establish the setting and occasion for the story?

2 Who is telling the story, and what is this narrator doing at the beginning?

3 Which character brings the problem into the story, and what is the problem?

4 How do the events move from the problem to a solution? Describe three events in order.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a 90-110 word first-person scene about a plan that suddenly changes at a school or community event. Establish the time and place, introduce at least one other character, and organize the events with a clear beginning, middle, and ending.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that establish where, when, and why the scene is happening. Circle the narrator and character names, then number four major events in the order they happen. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What details in paragraph 1 establish the setting and occasion for the story?	The story takes place at the Cedar Street Library on the first Saturday of October, shortly before the town's storytelling night.
2	Who is telling the story, and what is this narrator doing at the beginning?	The narrator is a first-person volunteer who is unlocking the library and working at the welcome table.
3	Which character brings the problem into the story, and what is the problem?	Lena brings the problem. The first speaker's train is delayed, so they need a new plan.
4	How do the events move from the problem to a solution? Describe three events in order.	Lena calls the station, the narrator asks Mr. Ortiz for a possible storyteller, and Ms. Bell agrees to speak. Later, the delayed speaker arrives.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On Tuesday afternoon, I waited backstage at the school talent show, holding the sheet music for my cousin Maya. The auditorium buzzed beyond the curtain, but Maya stared at her broken guitar string. First, I found the music teacher and asked for an extra guitar. Next, Maya practiced the opening chords while the act before us finished. When her name was announced, she walked onto the stage with the borrowed instrument. Finally, I watched from the wings as she played her song without stopping. The crowd clapped, and Maya bowed with a surprised grin.

Accept equivalent setting details and event sequences supported by the passage. For the writing task, look for a clear first-person point of view, an established context, an introduced character, and events that unfold in a logical order.