

Ending at the Bridge

Study how a narrative ending connects events to a final thought.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.3e "Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on the narrated experiences or events."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentences in the final paragraph that conclude the narrative. Circle two earlier details that the ending brings back or reflects on.

The Trail Signs

- ① On Saturday morning, I carried my sketchbook to the old footbridge behind the community center. Our art club had been asked to design signs for a new nature trail, and I wanted to draw the creek before deciding on colors. At the bridge, I noticed a plastic bottle caught between two rocks. Then I saw more wrappers along the bank. I had planned to spend the hour drawing, but the litter made the water and the bright wildflowers look ignored.
- ② I called my friend Nia, who was bringing paint supplies, and asked her to bring gloves instead. We filled two bags with trash, separating a dented can and a glass jar for recycling. A park worker passing by thanked us and gave us a map of the trail. As we walked, I sketched the blue water, the tall grasses, and a turtle warming itself on a log. Nia suggested that our signs include a reminder to pack out trash.
- ③ By noon, my sketchbook held drawings for three signs, but the clean creek mattered more than the pages. The work had changed what I wanted the signs to say: not just where the trail led, but how visitors could protect it. When I returned to the footbridge the next week, I saw no bottle between the rocks. I still felt proud of my drawings, yet I was prouder that Nia and I had helped the place look cared for.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What does the narrator say mattered more than the drawings at the end of the narrative?

2 How did the experience change what the narrator wanted the trail signs to say?

3 Which earlier event supports the narrator's final feeling that Nia and the narrator helped the place look cared for?

4 How does the final paragraph do more than tell that the cleanup ended?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine that you stayed after school to repair torn library books. Write a three-sentence conclusion to the narrative. Include two details about what happened and explain what the experience made you think or feel.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the sentences in the final paragraph that conclude the narrative. Circle two earlier details that the ending brings back or reflects on. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does the narrator say mattered more than the drawings at the end of the narrative?	The clean creek mattered more than the pages in the sketchbook.
2	How did the experience change what the narrator wanted the trail signs to say?	The narrator wanted the signs to tell visitors how to protect the trail, not only where it led.
3	Which earlier event supports the narrator's final feeling that Nia and the narrator helped the place look cared for?	They collected two bags of trash from the creek bank and separated recyclable items.
4	How does the final paragraph do more than tell that the cleanup ended?	It shows the later result at the bridge and explains the narrator's changed thinking and pride.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

After we taped the torn pages and sorted the books onto the right shelves, the library looked ready for readers again. I had expected a boring job, but finding the missing cover of a mystery book showed me why careful work matters. As I left, I felt responsible for a place that everyone in our school shares.

Accept answers that identify the ending's outcome, its connections to earlier cleanup details, and the narrator's reflection. For the open response, accept any three-sentence conclusion with two relevant event details and a reflection that follows from those details.