

The Stuck Shed

Study how a narrative builds a problem, sequence, and resolution.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.8.3 "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 Number 1, 2, and 3 beside the three main moments that move Maya from her problem to its resolution. Underline two details that help you picture or feel the scene.

The Key Ring

- ① At 6:10 on Saturday morning, Maya stood outside the community garden tool shed with a key that did not fit the lock. The sky was pale, and rain tapped the metal door. She had promised to open the shed before the volunteer planting day. Her uncle had shown her the key ring yesterday, but the tags now swung together like silver fish. Maya tried one key, then another. Behind her, a car door slammed, and the first volunteers began to arrive.
- ② Maya's cheeks warmed as Mr. Ortiz lifted a tray of tomato seedlings from his trunk. "Need a hand?" he asked. Maya almost said yes, but then she noticed a small brass key tucked beneath the ring's blue tag. It was labeled SHED. She slid it into the lock. For one breathless second, nothing happened. Then the latch clicked, and the shed door opened. A warm, earthy smell drifted out. Maya laughed, and Mr. Ortiz raised the tray as if it were a trophy.
- ③ Inside, Maya placed trowels beside the seedling trays while volunteers filled paper cups with water. Soon, the rain softened to a mist, and the garden paths shone dark brown. Maya handed a trowel to a younger boy who hovered near the door. "Start with this basil," she said. When he grinned and pressed the first plant into the soil, Maya finally exhaled. The morning had begun with a locked door, but it ended with green leaves, muddy hands, and a crowd at work.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What problem does Maya face at the beginning, and why does it matter to her?

2 What discovery changes Maya's situation? Explain what she does next.

3 How does Mr. Ortiz's question add to the tension in the scene? Use one detail from the passage in your answer.

4 Choose one descriptive detail from the ending. How does it help show that the problem has been resolved?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a 90 to 110 word narrative about solving a small problem before an important event. Include a clear beginning problem, at least two events in order, two sensory details, and either dialogue or a thought. End by showing what changed.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Number 1, 2, and 3 beside the three main moments that move Maya from her problem to its resolution. Underline two details that help you picture or feel the scene. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What problem does Maya face at the beginning, and why does it matter to her?	Maya cannot open the tool shed because her key does not fit the lock. It matters because she promised to open it before the volunteers arrive to plant.
2	What discovery changes Maya's situation? Explain what she does next.	She notices a small brass key under the blue tag labeled SHED. She puts it in the lock, and it opens the shed door.
3	How does Mr. Ortiz's question add to the tension in the scene? Use one detail from the passage in your answer.	His question shows that someone has noticed Maya's problem while volunteers are arriving. Maya's cheeks warm, which shows her embarrassment or pressure.
4	Choose one descriptive detail from the ending. How does it help show that the problem has been resolved?	Answers may cite green leaves, muddy hands, or a crowd at work and explain that the volunteers are planting successfully after Maya opens the shed.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On Tuesday, I reached the bus stop just as my science project slid from my backpack. The cardboard bridge landed in a puddle, and one paper tower sagged. For a moment, cold water soaked through my shoes while buses hissed along the street. Then I remembered the tape in my lunch bag. "Hold this," I told my brother, and he gripped the wet base. First, I pressed the tower upright. Next, I wrapped tape around the loose joints. When the bus arrived, the bridge still looked wrinkled, but it stood. I climbed aboard holding it carefully, relieved that my project had survived.

Accept responses that accurately connect the narrative techniques to evidence from the passage. For the writing task, look for a focused event sequence, relevant sensory details, and an ending that shows a change or result.